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Liedholm's balancing act looks like a winner for Europe

QUALITY CONTROL MAY SPARK A WORLD CUP RETHINK

From **KEIR RADNEDGE** in Gothenburg

EUROPE can use the 1992 European Championship finals to press the case for a World Cup revolution.

Nils Liedholm, Sweden's 1958 World Cup captain and then one of Italian football's finest coaches, could not have improved on "his" draw if the event had been fixed.

All eight managers — having watched his fishing expedition with a mixture of fascination and foreboding — were agreed.

Group One matches hosts Sweden with pre-draw favourites France, imposing England and the unknown factor from Yugoslavia. Sweden v France has all the makings of a superb Opening Match; Sweden v England has all the makings of a dramatic group decider.

Group Two places holders Holland and World champions Germany into direct rivalry for a third successive big event. This is a pairing to match Scotland v England; matches between Holland and Germany are about much more than football. Hence the extraordinary pride and pain and passion which were poured into the 1974 World Cup Final, the 1988 European semi-final and the 1990 World Cup second round match.

As Holland manager Rinus Michels pointed out, the clash in Gothenburg on June 18 will be the "third match decider" for this generation. Holland won amid controversy in Hamburg; Germany won amid controversy in Milan.

Scotland are the clear outsiders. That may, for once, work in their favour. Coach Andy Roxburgh, one of the most analytically realistic of national managers, quickly appreciated the fact. He was also delighted at avoiding England because of the emotional smokescreen the imminent confrontation would throw across the rest of his work.

As for the Commonwealth of Independent States, who knows what side they may field. The Ukraine federation has said it wants its players to go to Sweden. But, as recent history has demonstrated so astonishingly, four months is an awfully long time.

The CIS and Yugoslavia have been given until April 1 to confirm their intentions of attending the finals. Otherwise Italy and/or Denmark will be called in.

Desperately

Suggestions that the CIS are half-hearted about the European finals are way off target. The new federation needs the income desperately. Officials such as federation president Viacheslav Koloskov and his potential rival Anzor Kavasashvili (former international goalkeeper) are only too well aware of the importance of turning up. Absence from the European finals would instantly throw a large question-mark against participation in the next World Cup.

And World Cup issues are never far from the surface.

The European finals are renowned for a high standard of football — certainly a higher

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Pride and pain and passion . . . guaranteed whenever Holland and Germany meet each other.

WHAT'S ON

EUROPEAN
Championship hosts Sweden complete a trip to Australia at the start of February in which manager Tommy Svensson hopes to gauge the strength of home-based talent before he jets around Europe spying on his "foreign" mercenaries.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
United States v CIS (Pontiac Silverdome)
Australia v Sweden (Melbourne)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
England v France (Wembley)
Rep Ireland v Wales (Dublin)
Scotland v Northern Ireland (Glasgow, Hampden)

THE FINALS

Goup 1

June 10: SWEDEN V FRANCE (in Stockholm)
June 11: YUGOSLAVIA V ENGLAND (in Malmo)
June 14: SWEDEN V YUGOSLAVIA (in Stockholm)
June 14: FRANCE V ENGLAND (in Malmo)
June 17: SWEDEN V ENGLAND (in Stockholm)
June 17: FRANCE V YUGOSLAVIA (in Malmo)

Group 2

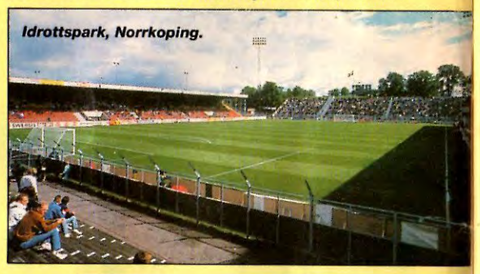
June 12: HOLLAND V SCOTLAND (in Gothenburg)
June 12: CIS V GERMANY (in Norrkoping)
June 15: HOLLAND V CIS (in Gothenburg)
June 15: SCOTLAND V GERMANY (in Norrkoping)
June 18: HOLLAND V GERMANY (in Gothenburg)
June 18: SCOTLAND V CIS (in Norrkoping)

Semi-Finals

June 21: Gp 1 winners v Gp 2 runners-up (in Stockholm)
June 22: Gp 2 winners v Gp 1 runners-up (in Gothenburg)

THE FINAL

June 26: In Gothenburg



Idrottspark, Norrkoping.

Rasunda Stadium, Stockholm.

THE STADIA

Gothenburg/Ullevi: Capacity 35,000. Opened 1958. Record attendance 52,194 IFK Gothenburg v Orgryte IS, June 3, 1959.

Malmo: Capacity 26,000. Opened 1958. Record attendance 31,156 Argentina v West Germany (WC) June 8, 1958.

Norrkoping/Idrottspark: Capacity 17,000. Opened 1903. Record attendance 32,234 IFK Norrkoping v Malmo FF, June 7, 1956.

Stockholm/Rasunda: Capacity 27,000. Opened 1937. Record attendance 52,943 Sweden v West Germany, Sep 26, 1965

QUALIFYING TOP SCORERS

10 goals: Pancev (Yug).
9 goals: Papin (Fra).
8 goals: Van Basten (Hol).
6 goals: Knup (Swi), Christensen (Den).
5 goals: Butragueno (Spa), Kiprich (Hun), Bergkamp (Hol), Clarke (NI).
4 goals: Carlos (Spa), McCoist (Sco), Sirakov (Bul), Poulsen (Den).
3 goals: Cantona, Sauzee (Fra), Danek (Cze), Durie (Sco), Todorov (Bul), Kanchelskis (SU), Voller (Ger), Rush (Wal), Rui Aguas, Futre (Por), Borbokis (Gre), Aldridge, Cascarino (RI).

● **Complete qualifying results and tables — see Page 59**

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winners	Hosts
1960	Soviet Union	France
1964	Spain	Spain
1968	Italy	Italy
1972	Germany	Belgium
1976	Czechoslovakia	Yugoslavia
1980	Germany	Italy
1984	France	France
1988	Holland	Germany

Osim and Bishovets facing problems

YUGOSLAVIA and the Commonwealth of Independent States (successor federation to the Soviet Union) have until April 1 to confirm their places in the finals of the European Championship.

Political turmoil in both regions means that even if both return to Sweden in June, the make-up of their squads is wide open to speculation.

Not even managers Ivica Osim or Anatoli Bishovets could say with any certainty at the draw in Gothenburg how the squads would be composed.

Dominated

Osim is resigned to the non-availability of Croatians Zvonimir Boban and Robert Jarni (both with Bari in Italy) and the probable absence of Real Madrid's Robert Prosinecki. Not only is he half-Croat, attracting threats from both sides of the internecine divide, but is convalescing after surgery to repair a torn thigh muscle.

Whatever the political mix-up in the fragmenting Yugoslavia, Belgrade has always dominated the domestic game and this season's league championship went ahead without the handful of top-flight Croatian clubs such as Hask-Gradjanski (ex-Dinamo) Zagreb and Hajduk Split.

Following recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by the European Community it seems only a matter of time before they apply for the all-important United Nations membership upon which entry to FIFA is predicated.

The situation regarding the CIS is even more confusing.

The Soviet Union "died" at the end of last year. So all international records up until December 31 must continue to refer to the "Soviet Union." But how long the CIS will exist in football terms is doubtful.

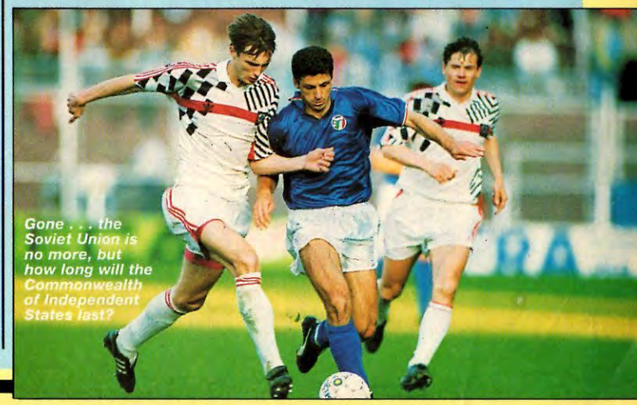
Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are independent states outside the CIS and back in FIFA. Georgia is also outside the CIS but political and sporting recognition remain way off.

Ukraine is in a different category again. Despite CIS integration it wants sporting independence. To that end, Ukraine will probably be granted full FIFA membership at this summer's congress.

Already Ukraine has pulled its clubs out of the Soviet/CIS championship and will run its own league. A short spring championship will start shortly before Ukraine falls into line with western Europe's autumn-to-spring scheduling.

Ukraine federation president Viktor Banikov has made it clear he is happy for Ukrainian players to represent the CIS at the European finals. He says: "They have worked for two years for this. For some it will be the peak of their careers. They will be in Sweden in June."

Privately Bishovets will believe it when he sees it. His consolation is that, for the first time in almost 20 years, the national team is built around Moscow (Spartak and CSKA) clubs rather than Kiev.



Gone . . . the Soviet Union is no more, but how long will the Commonwealth of Independent States last?

What the **MANAGERS** said

The men in charge (l to r): Taylor, Michels, Svensson, Bishovets, Vogts, Osim, Roxburgh and Platini.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

standard than anything produced in recent World Cups.

Yet Europe's representation at the World Cup finals is being slowly whittled away by the politically active Africans. The recent African Championship demonstrated quite clearly that, for all the rhetoric, Africa lacks the strength in technical and tactical depth to match Europe.

The best place for the increasingly fraught argument to be decided is the football pitch.

For many years critics have pondered over inter-continental qualifying rounds in the World Cup rather than the present regional sections.

East/west travel runs into jet lag problems. But travelling within similar time zones should not be beyond today's jet-set footballer.

Thus Europe and Africa could form one qualifying section; North/central and South America another; Asia and Oceania yet another.

The idea is attracting interest for various reasons. On the one hand, Africa could prove its case for more World Cup places; on the other European football would be spared so many of those the tediously repetitive pairings such as England v Poland.

European football is pre-eminent in the world game on an organisational and financial level. But those are both strengths and weaknesses. Consider the case of two likely absentees from the finals, Eric Cantona and Paul Gascoigne.

Here are two of Europe's — even the world's — most gifted young forwards. Yet ill-designed reaction under pressure has sidelined both. Cantona threw the ball at a referee, insulted the disciplinary board and retired from the game when he collected a two-month sentence; Gascoigne collected a threatening knee injury with the sort of reckless tackle which betrayed nerves and pressure all in one self-destructive moment.

Both will doubtless play again. They will then, perhaps, have learned a lesson. European football needs its stars but it needs to balance quality of football against the pressures inherent in success.

Italian football is the ultimate proof that quality and pressure can produce outstanding football. Milan this season are surely the world's form club. The reactivation of their Dutch triumvirate of Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, is ominous for European rivals Germany, Scotland and CIS.

Germany are the bookmakers' new favourites to lift the trophy in Sweden, followed by France and then England.

But do not discount Holland. Being drawn in the same group as Germany could be just the spur they need to become the first nation to successfully defend their crown.

GRAHAM TAYLOR *(England)*: It's the best we could have hoped for. You have to take what you're given but I'm pleased to have avoided Germany, Holland and Scotland. We are on a par with the other countries in our group. We have lost only one of 15 matches since the World Cup and that was to the holders. It will be hard to choose between the four of us. I know the Yugoslav situation has still to be decided but I think they will be in the finals. It's amazing how football brings everyone together, whatever else is going on. Arguably they have the most technically gifted players in the world like Savicevic, Pancev and Prosinecki which makes them extremely dangerous opponents. The French won all their qualifying matches but that's a lot of responsibility to take into the finals.

ANDY ROXBURGH *(Scotland)*: Obviously Holland and Germany are the favourites in our group and now it's up to us or the CIS to upset them. This European championship was always going to be our toughest challenge for a very long time. But the tougher the opposition the better our players are able to raise their game. We won't have to motivate them! We've never gone past the first round in the finals of the World Cup and we've never before reached the finals of the European Championship. We've had an awful lot of bad luck. Now it's time things went our way. We're going to the United States and Canada before the finals to get away from Europe and concentrate on building up harmony and team spirit. I'm glad we avoided England in the draw. That spares us all the emotional baggage which gets in the way sometimes. Now we can play them in the semi-finals, instead.

MICHEL PLATINI *(France)*: Everyone is saying France and England are favourites in our group. I will tell you what I think after our friendly match at Wembley. We are happy to play that. If it had been scheduled for a fortnight before the finals then I think we would have cancelled. But this way we will get an excellent chance to have a look at England.

TOMMY SVENSSON *(Sweden)*: We have a lot of work to do because so many of our players are with foreign clubs. But I think we will put up a much better show than at the 1990 World Cup. With opposing forwards such as Lineker, Pancev and Papin in our group our defence will need to be on top form. I'm sure our supporters will get behind us. I think we can reach the semi-finals. Then, if we do our best and the ball runs for us, who knows what might happen?

IVICA OSIM *(Yugoslavia)*: We have a lot of problems. Some of them, of course, everyone knows about. I don't know when I will get my foreign-based players together, I don't think I will have any of the Croatian players and our championship doesn't finish until May 24.

ANATOLI BISHOVETS *(CIS)*: First, we are happy to be in the finals. Our season has not yet started so I cannot say too much about our plans. Also many things may change politically before June. I think the groups were drawn very evenly and fairly. We are outsiders compared with Holland and Germany but this may not be a bad thing. It will take some of the pressure off us.

BERTI VOGTS *(Germany)*: The draw was very well balanced. Some people may not be happy at being drawn in the same group as Holland but if we are to win the European Championship we have to play — and beat — all the top teams. It could have been worse. Without wanting to be arrogant, we have a very good chance of reaching the semi-finals. I'm only sorry for our fans that we will play our first two matches in Norrkoping, because this has the smallest stadium. That means a greater onus to progress to the semi-finals and Final.

RINUS MICHELS *(Holland)*: The groups are equal. For example, I would not want to swap places with the manager of France. My players will be determined to show against Germany, for example, that the World Cup result was a mistake. We don't know a lot about the CIS but we know the sort of positive mentality of Scotland. I just hope that they do not do what England did in Italy: England changed their tactical approach as the finals went on and became a more effective team as a result. We don't want Scotland to do that.

FIFA play the numbers game

EURO '92 is jumping the gun on the World Cup. Critics who believe playing kit is too cluttered with words and insignia already are in for a shock.

At the European finals players will wear their names across the back of their shoulders above their number and a small number will appear on the shirt fronts.

The media will welcome the development wholeheartedly as an aid to identification.

FIFA had decided more than a year ago to introduce this change at the 1994 World Cup finals, pushing soccer dress and indentification codes closer to American standards.

Sportswear companies will be delighted at this further opportunity of a killing in the replica kit market.

Small stadia spell big problems for police

INCREDIBLE as it may seem, the largest venue for the finals of the multi-million-earning 1992 European Championship holds ONLY 35,000 fans.

That's the Ullevi stadium in Gothenburg which hosts three group matches, one semi-final and the Final.

And that means security will prove a headache for Swedish organisers and police.

Demand

The reasons are obvious: unsatisfied ticket demand will exacerbate the emotional intensity surrounding of the matches.

Each visiting federation receives 20 per cent of the tickets available per match. That means 7,000 maximum per country at the Ullevi — and only 3,400 each for Scotland and Germany when they meet in the totally insufficient Norrkoping stadium on June 15.

Even the Rasunda stadium at Stockholm/Solna holds only 27,000. That means only 5,400 tickets will be available for England followers. And that could spell trouble for a match which could see either side — or both — eliminated.

Too late to change now, of course. Swedish security officials are engaged in continuing discussions with their counterparts in the other seven countries. Now the finals schedule is known, more precise plans to prevent trouble can be formulated.

Lars-Crister Olsson, secretary of the Swedish federation, says: "Tickets will only be sold through the federations. They must all make it very clear to their fans: if you do not have a ticket, stay away."

The shape of things to come? Swedish police practice crowd control methods in preparation for a possible hooligan invasion this summer.

Sensational . . . the Faroe Islands' players celebrate their amazing 1-0 victory against Austria.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FACTS

- The first match of Euro '92 was played between Iceland and Albania on May 30, 1990. Iceland won 2-0 in Reykjavik.
- Sensation of the qualifiers was Faroe Islands' 1-0 defeat of Austria in Landskrona, Sweden, on November 12, 1990.
- Spain miss the finals for the first time since 1976.
- Sweden and Scotland are appearing in the finals for the first time.
- France achieved a unique record in winning all eight of their qualifying games.
- Yugoslavia equalled Spain's 1984 qualifying record by scoring 24 goals.
- Holland still hold the qualifying defensive record with one goal conceded in eight games in the 1988 event.
- Germany's winning goal against Belgium in Hannover was their 100th in the competition's history.
- Liechtenstein are the only UEFA members never to have competed in the European Championship.
- Holland have won more matches in the European Championships, 42, than any other nation. Then come the Soviet Union on 41 and Spain and Yugoslavia on 37.
- San Marino are the only nation never to have won a match in the European Championship.
- France are the only 1992 finalists who did not compete at the 1990 World Cup finals.
- The 1990-92 qualifying competition featured 123 games producing 333 goals.
- The first goal was scored by Iceland's Arnor Gudjohnsen in the 41st minute against Albania in Reykjavik on May 30, 1990; the last goal was scored by Marinakis of Greece in the 67th minute against Malta in Ta Qali on December 22, 1991.

Amara Simba (left) may partner Jean-Pierre Papin in the French attack.

SPOTLIGHT ON

GORDON STRACHAN

Wee man's maturing vintage

Little big shot is set for a return to Gothenburg

JUST like a good wine, Gordon Strachan is proving that the best things improve with age.

The little midfielder turns 35 this month yet he seems to be a more potent player now than ever he was. How appropriate it would be if he were to uncork a vintage finale to his career when Scotland take the stage in Sweden for the European Championship finals in June.

Sweden was where Strachan first made his mark on the international arena 12 years ago, when his craft secured a vital World Cup qualifying victory that set the Scots on the road to the '82 World Cup Finals.

Strachan had just been voted Scotland's Player of the Year, at 23, having inspired Aberdeen to the League Championship, breaking a 15-year dominance by Celtic and Rangers.

Last season he was awarded the Player of the Year trophy in England for the way he led a revitalised Leeds United back on to the main stage and for his quite brilliant personal displays. He was the first player ever to receive the award on both sides of the border.

Success . . . on target against West Germany (above) in the 1986 World Cup finals and celebrating Aberdeen's 1983 Cup-winners' Cup victory over Real Madrid in Gothenburg (right).

In the intervening 12 years Strachan had graced both leagues with his inventive brand of dribbling, guts and perception. He has taken part in two World Cup finals, won every domestic honour at Aberdeen as well as a European Cup-winners' Cup medal and FA Cup glory with Manchester United.

That the European Championships were not part of that roll of honour was more down to Scotland's appalling record in that competition — especially compared to five successive qualifications for the World Cup — than any deficiencies on Strachan's part.

Coach Andy Roxburgh, however, will testify that Strachan was as important as any element in Scotland reaching their first European finals, taking on the mantle of leader when players around him really needed someone to look to.

The parallels with another little corporal, Belgium's Wilfred Van Moer, are very similar.

He was just 12 months older than Strachan, at 36, when he inspired an unfancied team through to the finals of the 1980 European Championships in Italy.

Van Moer was a busy, skilful little player, whose real strength was in his leadership. The odds were stacked against Belgium, who had qualified at the expense of Scotland. Yet they overcame England and Italy before losing on penalties to West Germany.

Can fate work a repeat performance for this year's rank outsiders and their own little big man?

Certainly Andy Roxburgh, who recalled Strachan from the international wilderness in the middle of the European campaign to add some experience to his patched-up side, believes the Leeds United man is capable of such inspiration.

Strachan, more than any other, was responsible, for dragging Scotland back into the vital match with

Strength . . . Strachan coasts past Chelsea midfielder and former Leeds United team-mate Vinny Jones.

Scoring . . . in the 5-2 victory against New Zealand during the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Switzerland in Berne when they were 2-0 down. His cajoling, coaxing and even moaning, provided a platform from which Gordon Durie and Ally McCoist got the goals which kept their European dream alive.

In the absence of the injured Richard Gough, Alex McLeish and Paul McStay, who had all taken the captain's armband in previous group matches, the job went to Strachan.

"I had to make him captain," said Roxburgh, "because I was impressed by the way he shoves people around on the pitch and organises things."

Roxburgh adds: "Gordon has outstanding skill and a personality that continues to amaze us all. He has bounced back from setbacks and is producing outstanding form. He was sick at missing the last game, against San Marino, but we have a few games before the finals and if he continues to show his present form there is no way I could leave him out of my thoughts."

One of those games will be later this month, against Northern Ireland, and if Strachan is fit and chosen it will be his 49th cap, leaving him one short of the 50 required to get into the Scottish Football Association's Hall of Fame — containing such legends as Dalglish, Law, Souness and McGrain — and earn the right to have his portrait hung in the SFA's Glasgow headquarters.

What makes Strachan's renaissance all the more remarkable is that he was all but written off just a couple of years ago. He had been sold by Manchester United at a bargain £300,000 in 1988 to Leeds, and then his Scotland days seemed over after a bad showing in a 3-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by France in Paris in 1989.

Strachan recalls: "I felt it was the end of the line in an international sense. I knew I hadn't played well, and that hurt my pride.

"But what was even more painful was to think that people would remember me that way — that I had failed to produce the goods on a very big night. To get back to international football was amazing but to be asked to be captain was beyond words."

Bananas

Strachan stays realistic about his Indian summer, saying: "When the European finals come round I don't even know if I'll be in the Leeds side let alone the national one."

However, his performances currently indicate that he is getting the maximum out of his career. Part of the secret for that is his strange, but profitable, diet of porridge (for energy) into which bananas (for vitamins A, B and C) are mashed. This virtually fat-free diet is supplemented by seaweed tablets.

That might be part of the explanation why, even at 35, Strachan seems to be able to run all day, hardly surprising since he was a cross-country champion as a schoolboy.

He says: "People used to tell me that when I got to 30 I'd have to change my style and just pull the strings in the middle with two young guys alongside. I don't think I'm strong enough to do that, anyway I enjoy running."

Strachan was born on February 9, 1957 in Edinburgh and was raised in a sprawling housing scheme in one of that beautiful city's less salubrious parts.

He was football daft and would have ended up at his beloved Hibernian if his father had not fallen out with the club's then boss Eddie Turnbull while young Gordon was being sought by them. Instead Strachan got his breakthrough with Dundee and made his debut at 17.

By the age of 19 he was made captain of the side but he admits now that he still felt his career was going nowhere. That changed when Billy McNeill took him north to Aberdeen for £50,000 in 1977. Strachan was not an instant hit at Pittodrie and, in his second autobiography, recalls how he seemed to be a target for the fans' ire.

However, once he started to blossom, the carping stopped and the cheering started. Strachan was one of the key elements that helped Alex Ferguson fashion a side that took the title in 1980 and went on to do so again in 1984.

As well as his Player of the Year award in 1980, he won his first international cap against Northern Ireland and then went on to take part in the club's trio of Scottish Cup successes between 1982 and 1984 which put Aberdeen at the top of the pile in Scottish soccer.

Beacon

The high point was the winning of the Cup-winners' Cup in 1983, when, amid the rain in Gothenburg, Strachan's skill shone out like a beacon as The Dons defeated Real Madrid 2-1.

When Aberdeen fell to FC Porto at the semi-final stage of the following year's competition, a parting between player and club was inevitable.

Things had gone stale with clubs meeting four times a season. He'd also had to suffer three physical attacks on the pitch from fans, twice against Celtic and once at Dundee.

Money was also high on his list of priorities. Verona coveted him, Koln managed to get him to agree to move to West Germany but it was Manchester United who actually landed him for a £600,000 fee. A UEFA tribunal had to sort out the mess because Koln claimed that Strachan had signed a letter of intent saying he'd go to them and United had to give them compensation.

Under Ron Atkinson, Strachan was a revelation at Old Trafford. He helped the club to win the FA Cup over Everton in the '85 final and was responsible the following season for the run of 15 successive victories that sparked hopes of a long-overdue championship for the Red Devils.

That, sadly, didn't come but Strachan had firmly established himself as one of the most entertaining players around.

When his old boss, Alex Ferguson, took over as manager at Old Trafford it seemed as if the partnership would flourish once again. That was a false hope, Strachan gradually failed to fit into Fergie's plans and the player has admitted: "When someone who has been close to you loses confidence in you, you lose confidence in yourself."

Looking for a way out of Old Trafford, he almost joined French club Lens, but backed out saying there were "off the field hassles" and eventually found his way to Elland Road where his rejuvenation is history.

The little man has always risen to the occasion on the big stage, scoring in both World Cup finals he's been in — against New Zealand in '82 and West Germany in '86, where he comically parodied Maradona's celebrations by trying to jump over an advertising hoarding that was as tall as he was.

Gordon Strachan has always enjoyed football and enjoyed a laugh. It would be fitting if he could give Scotland, at last, something to smile about after all the miseries, and humiliation, of previous big time disappointments.

PHIL GORDON WS

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Monsieur MISSIONARY

Platini outlines his future hopes

MICHEL PLATINI, *WORLD SOCCER'S* Manager of the Year, brings his talented French side to Wembley this month on a revenge mission.

The last time France played in England, in 1969, they lost 5-0, a humiliating defeat with few parallels in their soccer history.

That is hardly likely to happen this time, with Platini's team unbeaten for nearly three years, on a run of seven consecutive away victories, and widely regarded as favourites for the European Championships this summer.

Platini makes no predictions about the result, saying: "We may win or we may lose. I don't know. The English are tough to beat, and more so at Wembley. It is one of my greatest regrets that I never played there for France.

"We will go to Wembley to win. We will go to play very well and play an attractive, serious match. It will be a real match, with only two substitutes allowed. It is a vital test for my side, and I want revenge for the disaster of 1969."

The great man, who won almost every honour as a player and looks to be on a similar course as a manager, sees himself as a football missionary.

At present his aim is to make France great again. He says: "It is so important that we have a good national side. There are two million people who play football in France and we are their representatives. That is an honour and a great responsibility.

"I want to see France become as strong as the top sides in Europe, Italy, Germany and England. We have never been that, but I believe we could be. We have to learn the mentality of winning."

That is something France, even with Platini as captain, lacked in the 1982 and 1986 World Cup semi-finals, when they lost each time to West Germany.

Platini the manager is trying to add steel to undoubted flair, and the results suggest he is succeeding. They qualified for Sweden with a 100 per cent record, the first country to do so in the history of the competition and another little piece of history for Platini, who was three times European Footballer of the Year and twice *WORLD SOCCER* player of the year.

All this has come after a slump in French fortunes which coincided with the retirement of Platini the player in 1987. Initially, he declined to go into management, preferring to be president of home-town club Nancy.

But as business ventures went wrong and the French Federation called upon him as a saviour when qualification for the 1990 World Cup was all but lost, the man was back.

He lost his first two matches as a coach, away to Yugoslavia and Scotland, but none since.

Amazingly, Platini had never coached even a Sunday side before taking on the French national team role. But he doesn't see that as a special problem, saying: "It's easier to become national trainer than be trainer for a club..

The manager . . . Platini organises a training session with his players.

Preparation

"With a club you are involved in everything, preparation, organisation, all the physical aspects. You only have a certain number of players you can use. I would think that is very difficult. But as national coach you can pick from 1,000 players.

"Of course, there is more responsibility and more pressure. But there are also advantages. You have more time for yourself — you even have time for holidays in the sun when it is cold at home. Many trainers of clubs could not be national coach, and I know I would find it very difficult, if not impossible to be club coach."

England, for example, would not take the gamble of appointing a national manager who had never worked with a club. In Graham Taylor they have almost the exact opposite to Platini, a man with a big reputation as a manager after a moderate playing career.

The great Frenchman shrugs his shoulders and says: "Many coaches say it's not important to have been a great player to be a great trainer. But the people who say that were never great players, were they? For me, the most important thing is having good players. And that's what France have got now. I just pick the team and tell them the truths I know about football."

Platini's style of management is different to say the least. He never stands on the touchline coaching, but always plays among the squad, guiding and coaxing them. That's why he always picks a squad with an odd number of players — so he can be sure of getting a game.

The huge respect he commands among the players is a key factor. They never question his authority or his strategies.

Paris St-Germain midfielder Christian Perez, perhaps the best playmaker the French have had since Platini, explains: "Without doubt he has been fundamental to our success. He transmits total confidence. He doesn't have to say much, you just take heart from his assurance.

"Now we are such a confident team, although we also have humility. Platini would not allow us to get big-headed. As things stand, we have a good chance of winning the European Championships as we did in 1984."

That, of course, was the peak of Platini's playing career.

He recalls: "Of course, that was a highlight of my career. But it was at home in France, and it would be an even greater achievement to win a tournament in another country."

Platini's managerial contract runs until the 1994 World Cup, and although he tells every inquirer that French Federation president Fournet-Fayard should sack him instantly if there is a better man for the job, he is sure to remain in the post until then.

He has just moved to Paris to avoid a nightmare daily 700-km commuter journey from Nancy and enjoys the splendid luxury of an office on Avenue D'Iena just off the Arc De Triomphe.

But after 1994, the missionary may be off again. He says: "I will always be a traveller. When my job with France is finished I would like to live and work in Australia and Japan and the US.

"I want to have new adventures all over the world, and I will go wherever football has need of me, wherever I can discover new things about life."

Philosophy

Platini currently combines managing the French side with leadership of FIFA's task force investigating possible changes aimed at making soccer a more attractive, spectacular game.

He says: "It is another great responsibility, but one which I enjoy very much. I have to come up with ideas about how to make football better. The most important thing is to change the mentality of players rather than changing too many laws.

"The laws have been good for 100 years, and if you change them too much you will ruin the game. Changing the mentality is difficult, but I believe it starts with referees. They must be good at their job and must uphold the laws firmly.

"That's why it is good to see players shown the red card if they deliberately try to stop a goal. The mentality of players has become too negative, and that is what we have to address.

My own little idea would be to in some way say 'no tackling', no pushing players over.

"It is only an idea, and it would be very difficult to implement. There would be a lot of discussing to be done, because I know that in England the tackle is very important. But perhaps this could make football more exciting."

Platini has retained a diamond-bright enthusiasm for soccer despite the tax scandals and World Cup disappointments he endured as a player. He is a man who clearly lives for football, wants to see it retain its position as the most popular game on earth.

He explains: "I am a man of ideas and a man of the pitch. I have a certain philosophy of football, and it's up to me to put across that message.

"That's why I always like to be with players, that's why the happiest times are when I get on my feet, get my boots on, and start playing with the rest of them."

The player . . . in action for France against Spain during the 1984 European Championship Final.

JIM HOLDEN (WS)

BOLI'S AMONG THE BEST

BY NICK **BIDWELL**

FOOTBALL is a family affair for the Boli clan in France. Roger is a striker with Lens, teenager Laurent is an apprentice at Paris Saint-Germain. But the most illustrious branch of the Boli family tree belongs to their brother, Basile.

During the past three seasons, Basile Boli has blossomed into a central defender of undoubted world class. At international level he is an essential cog in a French team who mapped a perfect route through the European Championship qualifiers.

And with Marseille his form has proved equally impressive. Boli's energy and will to win were major factors in the club's third consecutive League title, and for many Marseille supporters he was the star of last season.

Not that Boli was always top of the popularity charts at the Stade Velodrome. While an Auxerre player his confrontations with Marseille's Jean-Pierre Papin were often acrimonious, and initially the Marseillais public reserved an icy welcome for Basile. But his self-confidence and determination quickly converted Marseille fans to his cause.

"Because of a few incidents involving Papin and myself, Marseille supporters regarded me as their public enemy number one," he says. "Then after a while they noticed that I was giving everything for the club, and they began to see me in a different light."

Despite the success of his inauguaral year at Marseille, there was to be one false note for Boli. He had set his heart on winning the Champions' Cup and, after scoring against Lech Poznan and then against Moscow Spartak in the semi-final, that wish appeared close to fruition.

In the final, however, Boli's ultimate ambition was thwarted by the shoot-out calculations of Red Star Belgrade. As the Yugoslavs held the trophy aloft, his tears of sorrow were a reminder of how elusive sporting justice can be.

His fine display that night in Bari justified those who consider him the successor to the stylish Marius Tresor.

The days when Boli's game was blighted by a tendency to dive in for tackles he had no chance of winning are now long gone.

Today he is the complete stopper who possesses that rare alliance of technique, power, aerial ability and pace.

Nor is he simply a defensive player. Last season he added a gift for scoring, and his eight League goals made him Marseille's second leading marksman behind Papin.

"I learnt much during Franz Beckenbauer's spell as Marseille coach," says Boli. "For a time he played me at right-back and encouraged me to get forward.

"Before coming to Marseille, I used to play at 100 miles per hour. Beckenbauer taught me to approach the game with more intelligence."

In the opinion of many French soccer writers, Boli was the find of 1991, but he does not agree. "I don't think I can be called a revelation after over 300 matches as a professional," he argues. "What is different is that I am playing in a great Marseille side. It is easy to be noticed here.

"Even though Auxerre are one of the best teams in France, their ambitions are limited. But at Marseille only first place matters. We are expected to win every game and this pressure keeps me motivated.

"With Auxerre it wasn't the same. I was assured of a first-team spot even if I played poorly. I don't have that luxury at Marseille."

Basile Boli was born on January 2, 1967, in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan. As a youngster his spare time was almost exclusively occupied by games of street soccer, but at the age of 13 he left his African "training ground" for a new life in France.

His diplomat father was posted to the Ivory Coast's French Embassy and the family settled in Paris. Basile and brother Roger joined the local Romainville club and the former's defensive prowess earned him selection for the Parisian schoolboy side.

Protege

"At that time a number of First Division clubs began to show interest in me," recalls Boli. "Nantes, Sochaux, Paris Saint-Germain and Lens contacted me, but I chose Auxerre because they agreed to take Roger as well. We got on well and thought it would be easier if we stayed together.

"But our first training session at Auxerre, in the summer of 1982, was terrible. We spent all day jogging and did not kick a ball. I wanted to return to Paris. Fortunately, the next day we finally saw a ball and I settled down."

Auxerre manager Guy Roux was well aware he had unearthed a future star, and became a father figure for the youngster. "Roux watched me like a hawk," says Boli.

"He would make sure that I went to bed early, supervised my studies and even confiscated my motor scooter in case I was involved in an accident."

Roux's concern for his protege was certainly not in vain. At the age of 16 he was given his first-team debut against Monaco, in April 1983. "I had to mark the French international striker, Eric Pecout," says Boli.

"At the beginning I was so nervous, but after an uncertain 15 minutes, I recovered to play quite well and we drew 1-1."

In the following season Auxerre — featuring Boli, keeper Joel Bats and the Polish duo of Andrej Szarmach and Pawel Janas — surprised all France by finishing third in the championship race. And to underline his growing reputation, Boli was called into the French Under-21 team.

He helped his country to the last eight of the European Under-21 competition of 1984, but France were eliminated at the quarter-final stage by England, and four-goal Mark Hateley gave Boli a torrid 90 minutes in a humiliating 6-1 defeat for the French.

Boli put that setback behind him and in August 1986 he won his first full cap, in France's 2-0 friendly defeat in Switzerland. The verdict on his first performance for the Tricolores was equivocal. Critics were impressed by his determination, but less enamoured with his imprecise passing and over-aggressive tackling.

His inauspicious start to his international career continued as France began their 1988 European Championship qualifiers with a goalless draw in Iceland and a home defeat by the Soviet Union.

He was only 19 and part of a transitional French side who had just lost stars such as Bossis, Battiston, Tigana and Rocheteau. But Boli had failed to live up to his billing as a teenage genius, and for the next four years he was unable to hold a regular place in the team.

Boli's international fortunes took a decided turn for the better during the preliminary rounds to this summer's European Championships.

He took part in all eight of France's qualifying victories and formed a solid and athletic central defensive trio with Marseille club colleague Bernard Casoni and Napoli's Laurent Blanc.

"The national team manager, Michel Platini, appreciates my fighting spirit," says Boli. "For the past 18 months he has kept faith with me, and I hope that continues."

Boli stops Montpellier's Divert

The Brian GLANVILLE COLUMN

Riding a greedy tiger

THERE was something gloriously appropriate about the Premier (Greed is Good) League's decision to appoint, respectively, a banker and an accountant as their non-executive chairman and chief executive.

Evidently they thought that just as war was too important to be left to generals, so football was too important to be left to football people.

Mr Rick Parry, who is an accountant of supreme standing and not, as his name might suggest, a pop singer, announced that he would stand on his record (by which he did not, presumably, mean a compact disc).

Sir John Quinton, the enormously distinguished, venerable chairman of Barclays Bank, had scarcely been in office than he had thoroughly and gratuitously offended Gordon Taylor of the PFA.

Just as the banking unions (neutered creatures, I understand) were not present when good Sir John and his fellow directors of Barclays met in conclave, he said, so the union would not be welcome when the Premier League's rulers convened.

Taylor's response, though he said "incredulous" when he meant "incredible", was predictably and justifiably explosive. I marvelled at the idea that anyone, at the time of the Robert Maxwell revelations, should want at the helm of their new enterprise a banker of any sort, even one as distinguished, venerable, remarkable and talented as Sir John Quinton.

Making good Sir John an instant exception to the rule, I suggest that a new simile might well pass into the language: "as naive as a banker."

It is time that all you cynics out there realised that banks are essentially charitable institutions, lending enormous sums to South American and Eastern European countries which never had a hope of paying them back.

As for Mr Parry, whose public appearances have scarcely been inspirational, I do not know whether, by the time you read this, he will be in office or not. In this respect, at least, one had to feel a little sorry for the poor, doubtless well-intentioned, ex goalkeeping, fellow.

Inspirational

The FA should never have got themselves involved with this sorry affair. Their job, as they have told us themselves in the recent past, is to work for the good of the game in all its aspects. Not, emphatically, to allow themselves to be pulled into a competition set up by the richer clubs for their own benefit.

That the FA should remain at a discreet distance from the League clubs, who have their own interests, quite properly, to cultivate, seems to be mandatory.

As things stand, the FA are in danger of betraying their historic trust, of being drawn into a kind of corporatism. Of going, if you wish, for a ride on a tiger. Where, ultimately, will it lead?

The men in charge . . . Rick Parry (right) and Sir John Quinton.

A SUPPORTER'S PIECE

Elm Park, Reading . . . spiritual home for the great John Arlott.

JOHN ARLOTT'S death robbed us not only of a kind, gifted, generous, versatile man, a superb broadcaster and a splendid writer, but of one of the best football journalists since the war.

When John brought out a book, some 40 years ago, called Concerning Football, most of us in the Press were surprised, and I remember even Bernard Joy, a fine amateur centre-half, and by then a noted journalist, saying to me, "What does John Arlott know concerning soccer?"

The answer, it transpired, was a very great deal. Indeed, despite statements to the contrary in his obituaries — many of them distinguished by his own generosity, and by an abundance of endearing anecdote — I'd heard that football was his first love.

Concerning Soccer contained one classic piece of football writing, which I had the great pleasure to reprint in anthologies: Reading, A Supporter's Piece.

Beguilingly nostalgic, in his best reminiscent vein, John wrote of his days as a teenaged Reading supporter, of the long cycle ride up hill and down dale from his Hampshire home to Elm Park, of the obscure heroes of that day, the thick-thighed, bullet-headed centre-forwards; and of his own briefly successful exploitation of the new offside law when for a little while he became a goal-scoring centre-forward. Like John himself, the piece had irresistible charm; and still does.

He showed enormous goodwill to young journalists, not least to myself, when I returned from living in Italy in the mid-fifties, and he wanted me to edit a new football quarterly. Alas, it never came to fruition.

Poet, gourmet, journalist, unrivalled broadcaster; it is hard to imagine anyone of the same protean talents delighting us again.

Where there's no sense . . .

MERCY ME, it's a mess, I'm tellin' you! as Fats Waller would say. The 1994 World Cup, that is. Minnows have swum through the wide meshes of the eliminators' net. The same half-baked, half-cock, misbegotten system awaits us in the top-heavy, lopsided, 24-team finals. The one consolation is that what one might call Blatterism appears to be dead.

Blatterism is the name I would give to the perverse desire, after sheer weariness had condemned the last World Cup finals to sour mediocrity, to change the rules of the game, rather than change the format of the finals.

Sepp Blatter, secretary of FIFA, forever singing hymns to the unholy alliance of television, publicity and soccer, was swift to endorse a raft of daft proposals, such as widening the goals.

Most unfairly, the Americans themselves were blamed for that, though there is not an ounce of evidence that any pressure came either from the American Soccer Federation or from the TV networks which, as we have seen, don't give a damn about the tournament, anyway. But in New York Bladder — as the Americans are wont, in their quaint way, to call him — admitted defeat.

Apart from that last otiose suggestion, that passing back to the keeper be discouraged by obliging him to kick the ball, the attempt to pervert the laws has been abandoned.

When Heavylunge — to borrow the delightful nickname for our revered president of FIFA, coined by an English journalist based in Mexico in 1986 — paid off his African and other football debts by enlarging the World Cup finals, the results were sadly predictable.

Imaginable

You might also do better having 32 teams because that is, at least, a mathematically manageable number.

Instead, we are doomed to suffer and slog through an absurd initial phase in which players, intent above all on not losing, labour through the heat, arriving already weary at the direct-elimination phases.

No wonder so many bad games result; culminating in 1990 with that fiasco of a final, the poorest advertisement for a great game imaginable.

Now, letting in the Lithuanias, the Latvias, the Estonias and the other minnows, FIFA, who could perfectly well have placed such teams in a preliminary competition, a la the FA Cup, have condemned the European countries to a farcically protracted eliminatory phase.

Where there's no sense, there's no feeling.

TOO MANY AT THE MIKE

THE letter from Andy Smith (*WORLD SOCCER*, December) succeeds utterly in missing the point.

Mr Smith, former network football producer for BBC Radio Sport, shows a touching loyalty to his former commentators, Bryon Butler, Peter Jones and George Hamilton, but nobody was impugning them in the first place. All that verbiage about "screechers on radio" — names, please! — is just a smokescreen.

My own criticism of the BBC coverage, which seems absurdly dated and increasingly irrelevant, has nothing to do with the quality of individual commentators; except to the extent that I believe they could be far better used.

Mr. Smith, who has a firm grasp of non sequitur, tells us that when commentators are as sublimely gifted as those three, "there is no need to introduce the pacier Italian style." Oh, Andy, cudgel your wits, summon your brains, and please, please try to understand what your critics have been saying.

No need? The charge is that in these post-Thatcherite days of tamed Trade Unions, there is "no need," in fact quite the reverse, to have three grown men at a match, doing a job which should be done comfortably by one, while all the other matches in the First Division are reduced to the very occasional scoreline.

"Pacy" is not the adjective to be applied to the Italian Calcio Minuto Per Minuto commentaries, which are often exactly that, from the various grounds. The essential difference is that EVERY match is covered, that a goal is trumps, so that when one is scored, the commentator at that match is given precedence. And why not?

In France and Spain, Mr Smith, the same system prevails. Yours is antique. Yes, I take the point that as agreements with the League and FA stand, such commentaries are not feasible. Moral: the BBC sports dept. should have those contracts changed, pointing out that in almost every other major European country, every game is featured.

To insist that the skill of the commentators is paramount and decisive is simply perverse, an exercise in sheet obfuscation. "Screechers" just do not come into it.

Smith and his colleagues must surely see, at last, what splendid opportunities are provided by the sheer flexibility and immediacy of radio; and how they are currently being thrown away by such old-fashioned practices.

A master's voice . . . Bryon Butler

His letter is symptomatic of the present problem; an exercise in damage limitation.

Which brings me to Arsenal's Press conferences.

Following each game, they take place in a comfortably-appointed interview room, where George Graham, groomed, it is said, by Saatchi and Saatchi, sits above the subservient members of the Fourth Estate, to indulge in which I would never dream of calling an exercise in disinformation, however arcane I sometimes find his analysis of a game. On one side of him or the other, or both, each an Archie Andrews to his Peter Brough, sits an Arsenal player.

What, in such circumstances, are they likely to say, other than what they think will please their manager? Less formal interviews with players are discouraged.

I have mixed feelings about post-match interviews with managers, which will now (Brian Clough, are you listening?) become mandatory, if, as and when the Greed is Good (alias the Premier) League gets off the ground.

Most managers have been, in any case, sitting in the dugout, a fairly useless occupation since, as a manager admitted to me many years ago, "You see what they see" — "they" being the players.

But if, like Graham, you put what might be called a Pan-gloss on everything — everything being for the best in the best of all possible worlds — and tend to avoid comment on any controversial happening, the Press conference becomes almost an exercise in obfuscation.

In other countries, swift access is granted to dressing rooms. When the North American Soccer League was in being, the time scale was a mere 12 minutes.

But obduracy among the clubs and sycophancy among the Press, even at a time when football needs publicity more than ever, have conspired to create the present system; unsatisfactory in almost every way.

God knows what Saatchi and Saatchi told Graham, but whatever it was, it hasn't helped the Press. And, by implication, Arsenal.

On the ball . . . or not? Sepp Blatter (centre) at the World Cup draw in New York.

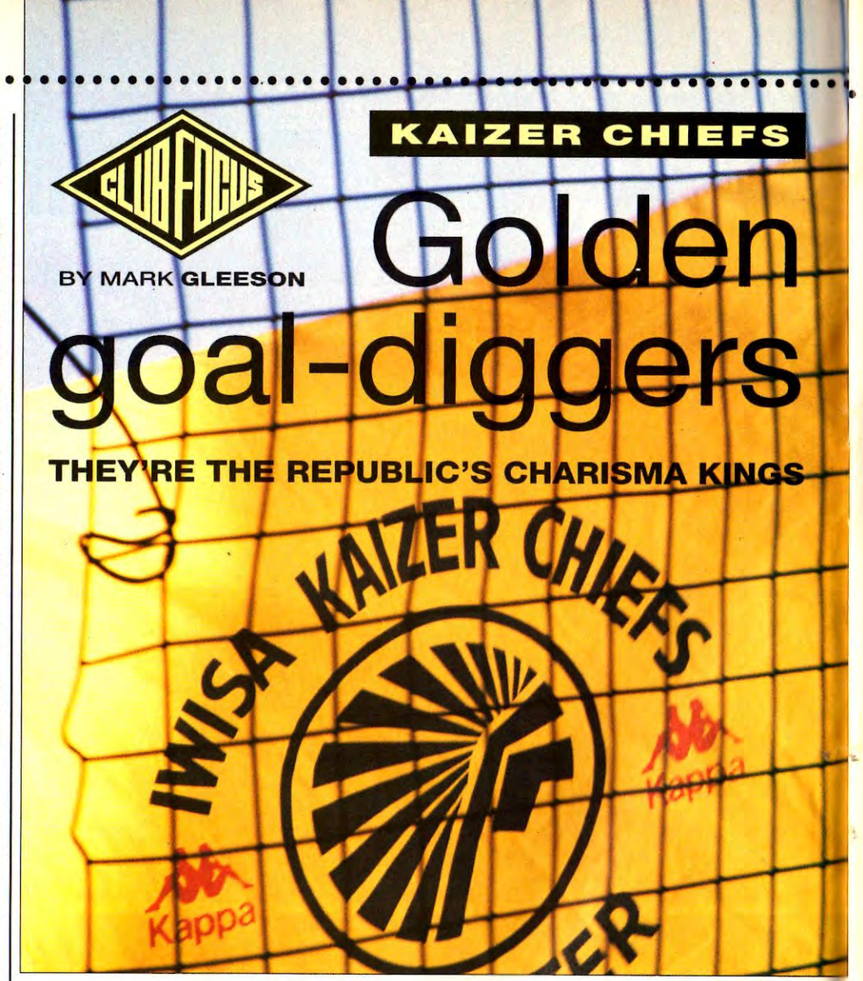
CLUB FOCUS

KAIZER CHIEFS

Golden goal-diggers

THEY'RE THE REPUBLIC'S CHARISMA KINGS

BY MARK GLEESON



JUST over 20 years ago an African legend was born. Not your usual tale of a river god or an animal with magical powers, but a football club with a charisma all their own.

Isiwa Kaizer Chiefs have won a staggering 53 trophies, amassed a registered support base of over 75,000 fans spread as far as Colorado, and become a commercial powerhouse conservatively worth a staggering £370,000 a year, even before a ball is kicked.

From Monday to Friday, Samuel Temane is pretty representative of your average South African male. He works in a steel factory, lovingly supporting his family, and is proud of his small township house.

Weekends, though, are a different story. That is when Temane is transformed into a comical lunatic with a fanatical obsession that puts him in a quirky league of his own.

Samuel Temane is undoubtedly the country's number one Kaizer Chiefs fan — a man whose home is brightly painted in yellow and black even down to the kitchen utensils, whose clothing always matches the colours of his favourite team and whose free time is totally dedicated to a blind following of his "prophets of soccer".

He has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles in support of the club, through thick and thin, it has been a heady journey of highs and lows, triumph and despair.

What probably keeps Temane going week in, week out, year after year is that there has been considerably more exhilaration than disappointment.

For that has been the unique privilege of Chiefs fans like Temane: a share in two decades of steady success with more than 50 trophy victories, a magnificent collection of footballing masters and a buzz that creates a magnetic atmosphere.

Empire

Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs Football Club (Pty) Ltd, to give them their full title, are a lot of different things to a lot of different people. Icon, mistress, employers, scourge, torturers. They are also a considerable empire with tentacles that stretch far beyond the footballing pitch.

The corner cafe, for example, probably stocks Kaizer Chiefs sweets; their record has already gone gold, and that's just the tip of the merchandising iceberg.

So powerful a vehicle are Chiefs that when clothing manufacturers Kappa threw a party to celebrate the re-signing of their sponsorship deal with Chiefs, it was a black-tie affair at a top hotel.

The new three-year Kappa sponsorship of Chiefs was the biggest of its kind in Africa — worth approximately £217,000 over three years.

Kappa pay in the region of £54,000 (including incentive bonuses) a year to have Chiefs wear their kit — plus approximately £11,000-worth of kit for the team and the individual players. And in these inflationary times, the three-year deal contained the customary escalating clause.

While Kappa supply Chiefs with clothing, Puma come to the aid of the Amakhosi in the footwear department to the tune of approximately £22,000 per year — £8,700 worth of equipment, £13,000 in cash and incentives.

Chiefs as a marketing tool? Puma's national promotions manager, Gary Williams, is fully aware of the benefits of an affinity with the Soweto club: "Our stronghold in the South African soccer boot market is due, to a large degree, to having been associated with Chiefs for more than 11 years. I'd hate to think what it would be like if we parted company."

Then there is over half a million annually from Premier Milling and more from merchandising agreements with, among others, Royal BeechNut, producers of the Kaizer Chiefs sweets.

Supporters are the real resource. Some 75,000 like Temane who shell out £2 a year for the right to join the Chiefs' fan club, with 250 branches countrywide, and as far afield as Denver, Colorado (US) and Blantyre, Malawi.

Members have a golden credit card, bringing discounts on hotel accommodation, funeral schemes and clothing.

The club guarantees Chiefs £163,000 a year, before they even take to the pitch. And then you start counting the gate takings, revenue from exhibition matches around the country and official prize money . . . not bad for an outfit who started life as a Sunday kick-about team. The story is well documented: Kaizer Motaung, darling of Soweto and rookie of the year in the North American Soccer League, drawing together a collection of teammates from Orlando Pirates and assorted associates to play friendly matches. From there a breakaway from Pirates in 1970 and almost overnight success that has continued unabated ever since.

Motaung says: "I had a dream that Chiefs would one day be as great as European clubs like Barcelona, Juventus and Manchester United. It has taken a long time because of isolation, and we've still got a long way to go. But I knew my dream would work."

Former goalkeeper Gary Bailey says: "They are like a combination of Manchester United and Liverpool."

He played for United against Liverpool and then ended his career with the Amakhosi. "They have the following of United and the success rate of Liverpool."

Bailey is just one of the illustrious names who have turned out for Chiefs; Jairzinho, the Brazilian winger from the victorious 1970 World Cup team was another.

Then the maestros of local soccer: Pule "Ace" Ntsoelengoe, Jan "Malombo" Lechaba, Nelson "Teenage" Diadia, Marks "Go Man Go" Maponyane, Mora "Samora" Khulu . . . and on and on and on.

The players need to be good, for the fans are fickle and demand success. Players are given a short settling in time and if not proven up to scratch will quickly have the terraces turn on them.

Glen Jordens from Cape Town, was a prime example. He failed to settle, quickly found himself the brunt of abuse from supporters, and hurried back to the safety of the Mother City. That he was white did not help his cause either.

But Jordens has few regrets about the move and says that, given the same set of circumstances, he would do it again. "The aura of the club definitely lived up to my expectations. Many aspects of the set-up were comparable to what I had been used to in Germany, with Darmstadt.

"The aspect of my time with Chiefs that really stood out was the way that the community treated you because you played for Chiefs — you are like a god."

The atmosphere when a white player steps into the limelight with Chiefs can be intimidating to say the least — some would call the fans downright racialistic.

Not Jordens: "I'd say it was more a case that they appreciate a different kind of skill to that which, generally, white players are able to offer. The balance of the present team, where there are only three white players, is probably ideal for a team like Chiefs."

Chiefs players might earn considerably less than their rivals at Mamelodi Sundowns (an average salary of £40 a month compared to £200 a week for some of Sundowns' star players), but they bask in all the glory that comes with donning the black and gold. Chiefs make an attempt at professionalism; they get their salaries to the players on time, there are special training kits for the players and snazzy leisure wear from sponsors and they have a downtown office in Johannesburg's city centre.

"Players must only worry about playing," says Motaung. "At Chiefs they just have to arrive and produce the goods on the field. We take care of the rest — from providing their training kit to paying them a fair salary — all their needs are met."

South Africa's return to international competition holds huge promise for Chiefs. There will be participation in either the African Champions' Cup or African Cup-winners' Cup and a chance to become the best on the continent.

It is a very good chance, says the president of the Confederation of African Football, Issa Hayatou.

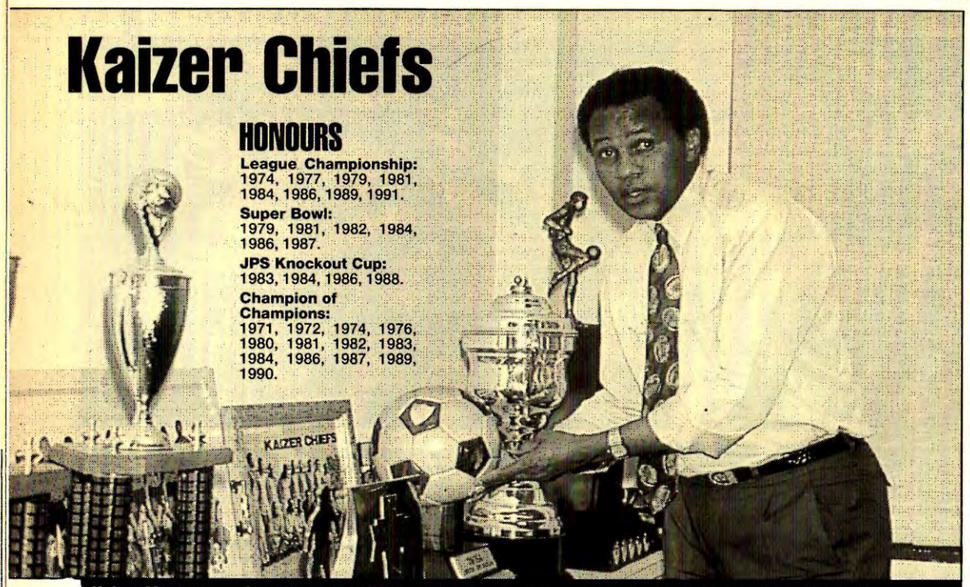
"I'd put them right now among the top 10 clubs in Africa. With a little practice and competition, there is no reason why they could not be number one."

Supporting . . . passionate, but demanding, fans (above) wear the black and yellow colours of their beloved Chiefs (below) with pride.

Past master . . . former Manchester United, Kaizer Chiefs and England goalkeeper Gary Bailey.

Future star . . . Chiefs midfielder Doctor Khumalo.

Kaizer Chiefs



Kaizer Motaung . . . founder and chairman of the Chiefs, and a powerful voice in South African football.

HONOURS

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MOTAUNG: Player, founder, chairman

DURING the building-up of the empire that is Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs, founder and chairman, Kaizer Motaung, has maintained a low profile that is admired by some, while drawing criticism from others.

Motaung cuts a dashing figure in Italian suits and with an imposing presence that underlines his growing status as the power behind the throne in South African soccer.

There is an aura about him that is both enigmatic and serene. For good reason, too, for while Motaung's club commands all the attention, the owner actively avoids it.

He is painfully shy, exceedingly wary of the media, and elusive to pin down.

Although he is the founder and chairman of Chiefs and has a proven record as a player, he refuses to tamper with the running of the team, leaving it up to the manager he has appointed.

He says: "The club is run like a business. Within that environment I believe that delegation is a major contributing factor to the successful running of a business. I entrust all my various departments to the people I have appointed to run them and those people are accountable for the performance of their divisions.

"Sure, when I meet with the team's manager I offer my opinion but ultimately it's his decision — I cannot impose myself. Many owners of clubs believe that because they're pumping large sums of money into a team, they must call the shots with the selection of, and dealing with the players.

"Many of them have never played at a decent level and therefore are not qualified to make playing-related decisions. It's wrong to get involved."

Motaung keeps a distance from the mud-slinging so prevalent these days in the domestic soccer, prefer-ring to conduct his business away from the spotlight. For good reasons too.

There is no doubting that Motaung's voice carries much sway in the corridors of power. Chiefs are, after all, the one club everyone wants to see and their matches against the other 23 First Division teams invariably produce the biggest gates of the year.

Where Motaung goes, so do the rest. His was instrumental in the defection from the National Professional Soccer League in 1985 and the formation of the National Soccer League.

"The NSL is Chiefs. We are the drawcards and the past has shown that 60 per cent of total revenue is because of Chiefs. We have always been committed to the interests of other clubs. I use my influence for the betterment of the clubs."

It is a role some are now beginning to question. Like arch-rival Jomo Somo, who attacked Motaung's manipulation of the strings in his newspaper column.

Motaung sees it differently: "Envy creates jealousy and bitterness. People don't understand what we've put into soccer — the work that's gone on behind the scenes."

After the Somo outburst Motaung's retort was a throwaway quip as he caught a plane to Britain to tie up possible friendlies against First Division opposition.

"I'm taking Solomon Morewa (the secretary general of the South African Football Association) along, just to show him who's boss . . . "

THE COACH

Jacob MOFOKENG.
Aged 36. Stand-in coach after Englishman Jeff Butler left the club last August to become South Africa's first national team coach. Mofokeng was Butler's assistant and is expected to play a caretaker role until the end of the season before a permanent replacment is found. He was captain of the club in 1984 when they made a clean sweep of the domestic season, winning all four trophies on offer. He is assisted by Nelson Diadia, former club favourite whose exciting wing play marked him as one of South African football's favourite sons.

THE PLAYERS

Wade DU PLESSIS.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 22. Was once on the books of Scottish club Hibernian. He made his South Africa debut aged 17 for Durban City and after his military service joined Chiefs and succeeded Gary Bailey, the former Manchester United 'keeper.

William SHONGWE.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 28. (Born 13 April 1963). International goalkeeper for neighbouring Swaziland who joined the team in 1985 and quickly won a first-team place with his sharp reflexes and height.

Trevor MTHIMKHULU.
Full-back.
Aged 28 (Born 10 October 1962). Longest-serving player, a product of the reserve team in the early 1980s. Erratic performer over the years, with infrequent appearances. Converted by Butler to full-back at the start of the 1991 season. Now in line for the first South African national team.

Rudolph SEALE.
Full-back.
Aged 25. (Born 29 October 1966). Exciting, overlapping full-back who is another obvious choice to represent South Africa. Aggressive, combines speed and a stunning shot, and gives Chiefs an added attacking option.

Howard FREESE.
Sweeper.
Aged 30. (Born 30 January 1961). Captain, a record signing at £5,000 from Jomo Cosmos in 1984. Has lifted more trophies than any other South African player, but his own play has been quietly steady, unspectacular and solid at the heart of defence. Originally a full-back, but was pulled into the middle at a time of an injury crisis and has stayed there ever since.

Lucas RADEBE.
Central defender.
Aged 22. Last season's Rookie of the Year, signed from a team in one of South Africa's nominally independent homelands, Bophuthatswana. Tall, strong and full of confidence, with the potential to become a major name on the African continent.

Ntsie MAPHIKE.
Full-back.
Aged 26 (Born 20 October 1965). Defensive cover who has been with the team for five years. Made his debut in the 1986 JPS Knockout Cup final against Moroka Swallows in front of 100,000 fans — a case of sink or swim. Maphike has kept his head above water since, but his outings have been limited by Seale.

Wellington MANYATHI.
Utility defender/midfielder.
Aged 29 (Born 19 June 1962). Another product of the club's youth scheme, one-time captain of the team. Long history of injury, but a tigerish midfielder whose absences have been sorely felt at times. Plays the role of ball collector in midfield for a team not renowned for tough tackling.

Neil TOVEY.
Midfielder.
Aged 29 (Born 2 July 1962). Signed from AmaZulu last season to add bite to midfield. Stylish player who has fitted in well with his more glamorous teammates. First played for Durban City where he won league title honours in his first professional season. His brother Mark also played for Chiefs, but is now player-coach at Manning Rangers.

Doctor KHUMALO.
Midfielder.
Aged 24 (Born 26 June 1967). The glamour boy of South African soccer, whose father Elkiam was one of Chiefs' first players and still helps with junior coaching. Khumalo made a major impact in his first season in 1988, but is now struggling as the South African game has become more physical. His real name is Theophilius, but he has, understandably, preferred to be called Doctor, although there is no medical connection.

Donald KHUSE.
Midfielder.
Aged 28 (Born 8 September 1963). Erratic midfielder who has had a great 1991 season, but is found wanting when Chiefs are on the defensive. Has played for all three major club sides in South Africa, starting with Orlando Pirates before moving to Mamelodi Sundowns and then to Chiefs in 1988. Scored the winning goal for Chiefs in the 1991 Champion of Champions Challenge final against Pirates and got the only goal when Chiefs beat Sundowns 1-0 in the quarter-final of the same tournament.

Fetsi MOLATEDI.
Midfielder.
Aged 30 (Born 27 July 1961). Another record signing for Chiefs in 1984, this time from neighbours Moroka Swallows. Another of the midfielders with brilliant passing ability, but a deficiency in the defensive department.

Isaac KUNGWANE.
Midfielder.
Aged 20. Bright young star of the future for Chiefs, signed from under the nose of Jomo Cosmos — the club with the reputation for unearthing gems. Needs time to rid himself of the excess of "flashiness" in his game, but has an uncanny ability on the ball and was a hero in his first competitive tournament at the start of the 1991 season.

Absalom THINDWA.
Midfielder/Striker.
Aged 31. (Born 6 January 1960). Brilliant scorer, who has won the award for the best televised goal in South Africa on two occasions. Hails from Swaziland where he was national team captain and once scored a goal against a combined Spurs/Liverpool team. Has been banned from international soccer for playing in South Africa, but is expected to get an amnesty when the country join FIFA next year.

Fani MADIDA.
Striker.
Aged 24 (Born 7 December 1966). Leading scorer in South Africa in the 1991 season with 21 league goals in first 23 appearances. Hails from KwaZulu and came to Johannesburg to beg for a trial with the club. Was signed and made a few appearances, before spending two successful seasons on loan to Giant Blackpool. Favourite to win South Africa's Footballer of the Year award for 1991.

Shane MACGREGOR.
Striker.
Aged 27 (Born 5 December 1963). Footballer of the Year in 1989 and the only player to have scored more than 150 league goals since the new non-racial National Soccer League was formed in 1985. Started with unfancied Rangers and helped the club to win league title in 1985. Made an expensive transfer to Chiefs in 1988 after scoring 15 goals in as many games at the start of the season, but then suffered a drought at his new club. Regained his confidence the next year and has not looked back since. Had successful trials in Austria.

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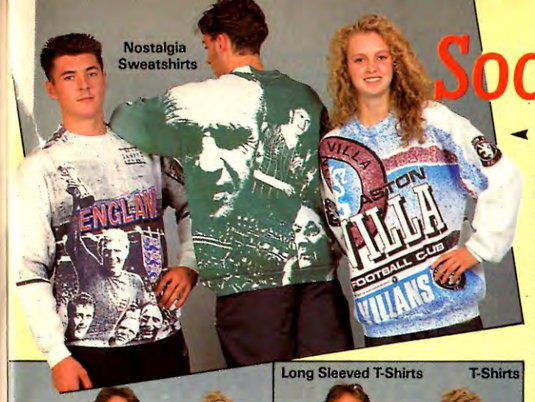

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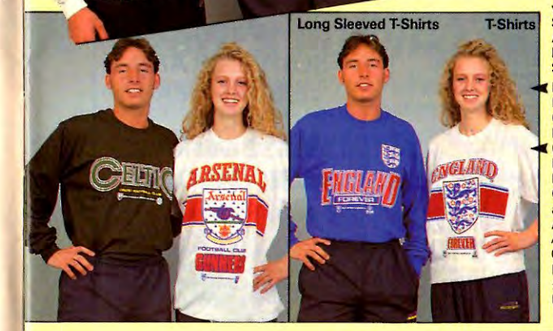

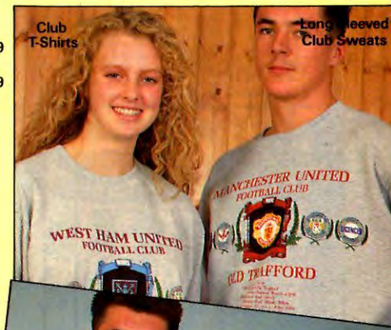

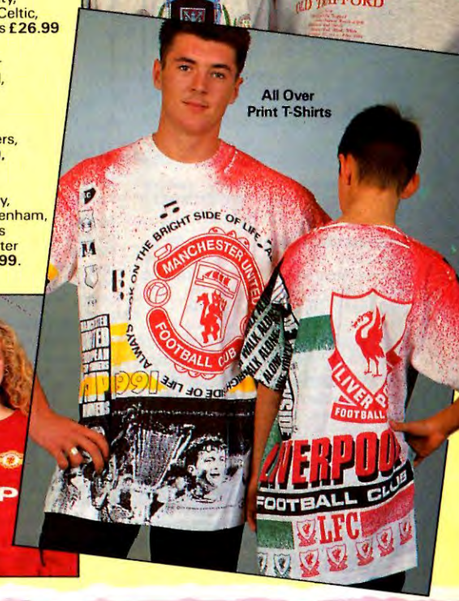

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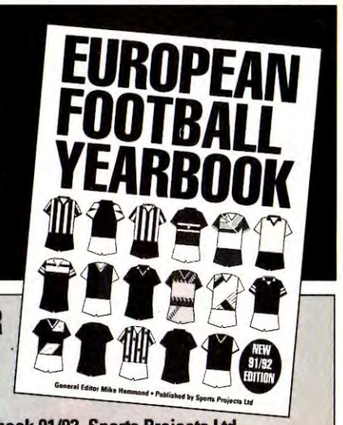

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	SP	CO	AMS	DISC
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	ST	AMIGA
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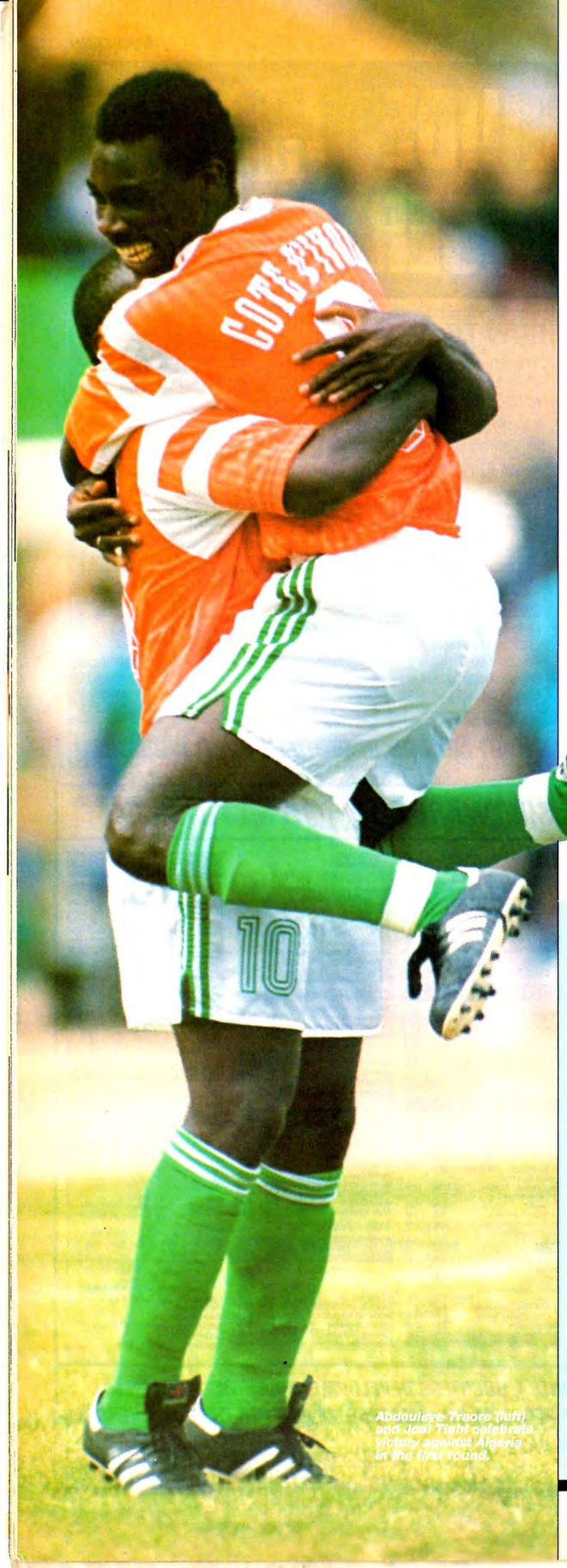


Abdoulaye Traore (left) and Joel Tiehi celebrate victory against Algeria in the first round.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP
BY **MARK GLEESON** IN SENEGAL

BIGGER BUT NOT BETTER

IT was supposed t be a lot more dramatic than it turned out, but on the whole, Africa's new 12-nation championship was a positive starting point.

The increased number of finalists for the African Nations Cup tournament, the shift of date to accommodate the ever-increasing contingent of professionals in Europe and hundreds of hours of television coverage worldwide all contributed to a more professional outlook.

Such a pity then, that the football did not match up to the expectations. Africa's new shop window had few real highlights, few new stars and none of that innocent exuberance which has been such an integral part of similar tournaments in the past.

Of course, that has had to go, what with the continent's coming of age.

Of the 263 players in this year's competition, 89 were professionals earning their money in Europe. Three of the coaches came from Germany, two from France and another from Holland. This is no longer a tiny tournament tucked away in some exotic-sounding location.

There were players like Zambia's Kalusha Bwalya of Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, the Hassan twins from Switzerland's Neuchatel Xamax, Nigeria's Stephen Keshi and Rabah Madjer of Algeria, a former European Cup winner with FC Porto. Also, almost the entire Cameroon team from the last World Cup finals and some of the new generation too, like Nii Lamptey, who helped Ghana win the World Under-17 title in Italy last year. And, tailor-made for the big stage, the newly crowned African Footballer of the Year, Abedi Pele.

He did not disapoint, standing head and shoulders above the rest and a deserved winner of the Player of the Tournament award, even if he did not get to participate in the final.

That was a tragedy for African soccer, but this time the Confederation of African Football stuck to the rules and Abedi Pele's second yellow card in the semi-final against Nigeria meant an automatic one-match suspension.

This, too, is an example of the progress being made on the continent, for it was only six years ago in Cairo that a similar fate befell Egypt's Taher Abou Zeid before the final against Cameroon. On that occasion, the CAF created a loophole to allow Abou Zeid to play, and help his country defeat Cameroon in a penalty shoot-out.

There was also a penalty shoot-out this time round — 24 kicks taken before Ivory Coast emerged winners for the first time. They have been threatening for a long time now and have finally achieved a long-standing objective, even if victory will always be clouded by questions like "what if Abedi Pele had played?"

The irony is Ivory Coast played progressively worse as the tournament went on. Their opening match against defending champions Algeria was sensational, with the three-man attack of Youssouf Fofana, Abdoulaye Traore and Joel Tiehi looking like world-beaters as they claimed a goal apiece.

Eliminated

But the Ivorians only scored once more after that, a wicked deflection off a Zambian defender to settle their quarter-final encounter in extra time, and had goalkeeper Alain Gouamene to thank for the rest of their success with his brilliance in two penalty shoot-outs. There were shades of Argentina's defensive progress to the 1990 World Cup final in Rome about the Ivory Coast's performance, except unlike Diego Maradona and company, they went on to win.

It is, nevertheless, a breath of fresh air in the power struggle for supremacy in Africa. Certainly, Cameroon and Egypt of the World Cup two years ago are no more, and the Arab dominance of the African game is gone. The Moroccans, Algerians and Egyptians were the first three eliminated from the tournament and there is every indication it will be somewhile before they play any major part again.

The future, it would seem belongs now to west Africa, and more specifically the Ivorians, Ghanaians and Nigerians. The latter two provided the best match of the tournament in the semi-finals and have the nucleus of strong teams for the upcoming qualifiers for the '94 World Cup finals.

PELE IS KING WITH THE WRONG SORT OF CROWN

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

ABEDI AYEW, African Footballer of the Year, added to his prize collection when he was voted Man of the Tournament.

But Pele — as he is, of course, better known — would happily have exchanged all those accolades for a gold medal at the Final.

He watched, instead, from the sidelines as Ghana went down to an Ivory Coast side who will probably be remembered as shoot-out kings of Africa rather than fully-appraised champions of their continent.

A second tournament yellow card, wagged at him by Tunisian refere Nai Jouini in the 2-1 semi-final defeat of Nigeria, stopped Pele in his tracks. His team-mates went to the Final without him — without the Marseille star whose superb equaliser on the brink of half-time had pulled Ghana level.

Suffered

Pele's absence from the Final, plus its dramatic but hardly ideal conclusion, were the two factors which left an unsatisfactory air to the event.

Perhaps the tournament had suffered from too much hype. Of course, remarkable talents had been paraded for the delectation of the foreign — mainly Italian and French — scouts who will try to bend the significance of events to suit their financial interests.

African football continues to make great strides. But are they the right strides? Criticism, apart from the perennial problem of erratic refereeing, centred on a lack of team discipline.

As Pele said: "To develop we must marry the best of African skill with the organisation and training and coaching of the European game. Only then will we make further, real progress. That is what Brazil have had to do. So now Africa is no different. If we want to prove worthy of hosting World Cups and winning international tournaments that must be the right way to go."

No one doubts Pele's ability but his logic may be flawed. Brazil have singularly failed in the World Cup since trying to "Europeanise" their game.

Are European standards and methods so wonderful anyway?

European football is built on the importance of the result. That is why the other European-based mercenaries were called for duty in Senegal. That is why the finals were shifted forward from their traditional March date to January — to facilitate their release.

They were wanted not so much for their skill as the pragmatism whose inculcation had been central to their success in Europe

No-one disputes the explosively refreshing individual talent available in Africa.

But African football genius is not a discovery of the 1990s. The point was rubbed home in Lisbon, Portugal, on the same weekend as the African Final. Eusebio, Mozambique-born hero of Benfica in the 1960s, celebrated his 50th birthday by inveiling a statue in his honour at the Stadio do Benfica.

Eusebio was the first African to make an international reputation but far from the first African to contribute to the European game — as a string of French/North African internationals of the 1940s and 1950s could testify.

Ghana will forever consider these African finals lost not in a shoot-out against the Ivory Coast but in that sad semi-final moment when Pele was cautioned for dissent.

The decision was all the more unedifying since Ghana sweeper Tony Baffoe had, moments earlier, escaped punishment for a professional foul on Rashid Yekini.

Baffoe would, of course, pay his own literal penalty with the very last kick of the very last shoot-out.

But if Pele had been there, would the shoot-out have even been needed?

Missed . . . Pele (right) was suspended from the final having been booked twice.

Ivory poachers

Baffoe blunder sends title to the coast

A succession of missed chances and an emotion-draining penalty shoot-out decided the outcome of the African Nations Cup: Ivory Coast taking the trophy for the first time with an 11-10 victory in the shoot-out after a goalless 120 minutes.

The sudden-death spot kicks dragged on for some 20 minutes as the penalty takers found a precision that had previously been missing from the spot in the tournament. Up until the final, all three penalties awarded had been missed and the semi-final shoot-out between the Ivorians and Cameroon saw only four converted.

Improved

But with the trophy at stake, the marksmanship was much improved with the first seven kicks converted before 18-year-old Isaac Asare missed to leave Ivory Coast ahead 4-3. That meant Joel Tiehi needed to convert the fifth kick for the "Elephants" to secure the trophy, but it hit the upright, then the back of goalkeeper Edward Ansah and somehow managed to stay out.

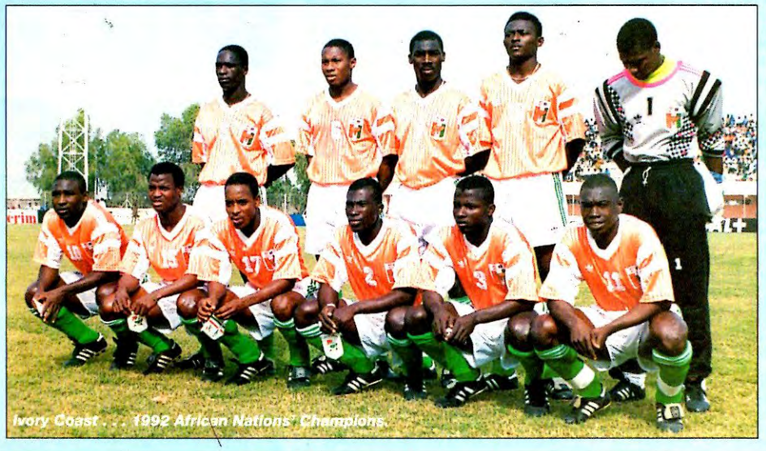
Anthony Yeboah brought the scores back level at 4-4 after five kicks each and the sudden-death process went right through all the players, including the rival goalkeepers, before the cycle began again at 10-10. That was when Kouame Aka stepped up and neatly scored and Ghana's stand-in captain, Tony Baffoe, had his kick stopped for a sensational win.

The match itself saw Ghana with the better attacking ideas, but after Prince Polley Opoku missed a sitter in the fifth minute it was always going to be an uphill struggle against a team who had not conceded a goal during the tournament.

After half-time substitute Moussa Traore blistered a shot against the woodwork for the Ivorians and Yeboah returned the compliment in the 90th minute, with Nii Lamptey failing to control the rebound.

The best chance of the match, though, fell the way of Tiehi in the final minute of extra time. He sprung the offside trip, but was so surprised by his good fortune that he first had a glance at the linesman and then tried to round the 'keeper instead of placing the ball.

Understandably, he would have been the villain if the Ivorians had lost. His emotion at the final result was one of utter relief while his team-mates celebrated.



Ivory Coast . . . 1992 African Nations' Champions.

FINAL

Sunday, January 26 = Dakar
Ivory Coast 0
Ghana 0
Aet: Ivory Coast won 11-10 on pens.
Att: 45,000. **Ref:** Badara Sene (Senegal).
Cautions: Armah (42), Mensah (75); Tiehi (39), M Traore (101).
Shoot-out: 1-0 Aka: 1-1 Baffoe; 2-1 Hobou; 2-2 Lamptey; 3-2 Sekana; 3-3 Naawu; 4-3 Traore; 4-3 Asare (missed); 4-3 Tiehi (missed); 4-4 Yeboah; 5-4 Gadji-Celi; 5-5 Mensah; 6-5 Kassy Kouadio; 6-6 Armah; 7-6 Sam Aboua; 7-7 Abroah; 8-7 Maguy; 8-8 Ampeah; 9-8 Sie; 9-9 Opoku; 10-9 Gouamene; 10-10 Ansah; 11-10 Ake; 11-10 Baffoe (saved).
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Aka, Sam Aboua, Sekana, Hobou; Gadji-Celi, Maguy, Sie, Otokore (M Traore 53), Tiehi, A. Traore (Kassy Kouadio 101).
Ghana: Ansah: Ampeah, Mensah, Baffoe, Armah; Gyamfi (Naawu 51), Abroah, Lamptey, Asare; Yeboah, Opoku.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Saturday, January 25 = Dakar
Cameroon 1 (Maboang 85)
Nigeria 2 (Ekpo 75, Yekini 88)
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** Zeli (Ivory Coast).
Cautions: Aminu (34), Okon (42), Ikpeba (61); Massing (67).
Cameroon: Songo'o: Tataw, Massing, Ndip-Akem, Onana, Ebwelle; Mbouh, Ewane (Ekeke 46), Tapoko, Makanaky (Ebongue 75); Maboang.
Nigeria: Agu; Ubade, Eguavon (Ezeogu 34), Aminu, Agboola; Adepoju, Ekpo, Finidi, Okon (Alatishe 74); Ikpeba, Yekini.

FIRST ROUND

Shock defeat for punchless Egypt

Group A *(Amitie Stadium, Dakar)*

NIGERIA gave immediate notice of their prowess with a 2-1 victory over Senegal in their opening match.

A quick strike by Belgian-based Samson Siasia, followed by a late winner from captain Stephen Keshi, brought home the depth of talent at Nigeria's disposal.

Their speed and power made for awesome opposition and they were in peak physical condition after two months in camp under Dutch coach Clemence Westerhoff.

Nigeria were 2-1 winners in the second game, too, edging out Kenya. Two goals inside the first 15 minutes by burly striker Rachidi Yekini were enough to see the task accomplished.

Kenya's goal was a last-minute penalty by veteran sweeper Micky Weche — the first in three consecutive appearances at the finals.

The final match pitted hosts Senegal against Kenya, with the victor guaranteed a quarter-final berth.

Senegal's coach Claude Leroy had taken a pasting from the press after losing to Nigeria, and played a nervous opening half against the determined Kenyans.

But then some poor defending allowed Souleymane Sane to put Senegal 1-0 ahead at the start of the second half and it was easy after that, with further goals by Jules Bocande and 20-year-old Victor Diagne.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Senegal	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group B *(Amitie Stadium, Dakar)*

CAMEROON, as expected, topped the group but they did not look as powerful as they used to do.

They began with a 1-0 win over Morocco, Andre Kana-Biyik scoring in the first half and going off injured in the second. Cyrille Makanaky looked particularly eye-catching in midfield and Francois Omam-Biyik was as dangerous as ever up front.

Morocco were back on the pitch two days later and involved in a thrilling tussle with Zaire. There were countless opportunities at both ends — Zaire even having captain Kinkomba Kingambo's 78th minute penalty saved by stand-in goalkeeper Khalil Azmi — and the goals came in the last minute.

Substitute Said Rokbi neatly slotted in a square pass, but straight from the kick-off Zaire swarmed forward, and Ngole Kona got the vital touch to share the points.

That meant Zaire needed a draw in the final game to go through with Cameroon and there was a suggestion of a tame affair in a bid to send the Moroccans packing early . . . until the very first minute, when Zaire scored through Menayane Tueba.

That prompted Cameroon into action and Omam-Biyik brought them level.

Several Cameroon players were far below standard and it came as no surprise when Makanaky, Massing and Tataw were dropped for the quarter-final.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Zaire	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Morocco	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group C *(Aline Sitoe Diatta Stadium, Ziquinchor)*

HOLDERS Algeria arrived in the midst of political turmoil back home, which also split their own camp between those wanting to retain western values and the Islamic fundamentalists.

Not surprisingly, the team played poorly, losing 3-0 to Ivory Coast and drawing 1-1 with Congo — their first finals in 14 years.

Congo's goalless draw with the Ivory Coast put them in line for a quarter-final if they could hold Algeria in the final match of the group, which they did with ease.

The Ivorians could be well pleased with their performance. Few people had thought, before the start, that they would survive the first round, but their solid defending and sharp finishing gave them a well-earned first place.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Congo	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Algeria	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

1st ROUND

Sunday, January 12 = Dakar
Group B
Cameroon 1 (Kana-Biyik 23)
Morocco 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Lim Kee Chong (Mauritius).
Cautions: Moudaker (44), Nayet (82); Onana (58).
Cameroon: Bell; Tataw, Kunde, Onana, Ebwelle; Kana-Biyik (Ekeke 56), Mbouh, Pagal, Mfede; Makanaky, Omam-Biyik.
Morocco: Zaki (Azmi 42); Azzouzi, Bouhlal, Jilal (Moudaker 11), Daoudi; Naybet, Mjid, Bouderbala, Raghib; Rokbi, Chaouch.

Sunday, January 12 = Dakar
Group A
Senegal 1 (Bocande 38)
Nigeria 2 (Siasia 13, Keshi 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Nizar Watti (Syria).
Cautions: A Mendy (67); Yekini (86).
Senegal: Seck; Fall, R Mendy, Teuw, A Mendy; V Diagne, Sene, Ndiaye (N'daw 46); Youm, Bocande, Sane.
Nigeria: Agu; Agboola, Keshi, Babalade, Ezeogu; Adepoju, Eguavon, Olina (Ekpo 46), Elahor (Finidi 83); Siasia, Yekini.

Monday, January 13 — Ziquinchor
Group C
Algeria 0
Ivory Coast 3 (A Traore 14, Fofana 25, Tiehi 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** M. Hounnake-Kouassi (Togo).
Dismissal: Adjas (27).
Cautions: Hobou (11), Otokore (36), Aka (87).
Algeria: Osmani; Rahmouni, Megharia, Belatoui (Heraoui 65), Benhalima, Adjas; El Quazani, Saib, Madjer; Bouafia, Meddane (Sandjak 46).
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Aka, Sam Abouo, Sekana, Hobou; Ben Salah (Lignon 43), Gadji-Celi, Otokore; A Traore (Maguy 70), Tiehi, Fofana.

Monday, January 13 — Ziquinchor
Group D
Egypt 0
Zambia 1 (Bwalya 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Badara Sene (Senegal).
Caution: Yaken (44).
Egypt: Shoubier; I Hassan, Yaken, H Ramzy, Ragab; A Ramzy, Abdelghani, Youssef, El Kas; H Hassan, Abdelhamid (Abdelazim 80).
Zambia: Chabala; Soko, Chomba, Mulenga, Changwe, Melu (Watiyakeni 82); Mankinka, Mwitwa, Makwaza; Chikabala (Mbasela 60), Bwalya.

Tuesday, January 14 = Dakar
Group A
Kenya 1 (Weche 89 pen)
Nigeria 2 (Yekini 7, 15)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Kadry Abdelazim (Egypt).
Cautions: Eguavon (56); A Odhiambo (78).
Kenya: Busolo; Ochulla, A Odhiambo, Weche, Owuor, Sunguti; Mwololo, Lwanga (Nyandoro 81), Lukoye; Ndungu (Odongo 82), Okoth.
Nigeria: Agu; Agboola, Keshi, Babalade (Okechukwu 78), Ezeogu; Eguavon, Ekpo, Elahor (Finidi 61), Adepoju; Siasia, Yekini.

Tuesday, January 14 = Dakar
Group B
Morocco 1 (Rokbi 89)
Zaire 1 (Kona 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Neji Jouini (Tunisia).
Dismissal: Olk (Morocco coach).
Cautions: Bouhlal (67); Kona (35), Kingambo (40), Mukanya (50), Lokose (72), Balenga (86).
Morocco: Azmi; Azzouzi, Naybet, Bouhlal, Daoudi; Mjid, Moudakar (Omiai 82), Bouderbala, Chaouch; Rajhy, Laghrissi (Rokbi 36).
Zaire: Merikani; Ngombo, Buana, Lokose, Kusongo; Mukanya, Ndinga, Lyambo (Ngombe 46), Kingambo; Balenga, Kana.

Wednesday, January 15 = Ziquinchor
Group C
Congo 0
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Hafidhi Ali (Tanzania).
Cautions: Otokore (38); Tsoumou (21).
Congo: Samba; Ntounou, Tsoumou, Mouyabi, Nsombi; Owomat, Baloki, J-C Mbemba (Tchibota 58), Ndomba (J-M Mbemba 75); Makita, N'Gapy.
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Aka, Sam Abouo, Sekana, Hobou; Rufin, Maguy, Otokore; A Traore, Tiehi (M Traore 55), Fofana.

Wednesday, January 16 = Ziquinchor
Group D
Ghana 1 (Abedi Pele 64)
Zambia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Naciri Abdelali (Morocco).
Caution: Ankrah (35).
Ghana: Ansah; Ankrah, Mansoh, Baffoe, Armah, Apiah; Gargo (Opoku Nti 56), Lamptey (Gyamfi 89), Abedi Pele; Yeboah, Ibrahim.
Zambia: Chabala; Soko, Chomba, Mulenga, Watiyakeni, Changwe; Mankinka, Makwaza, Mwitwa; Mbasela, Bwalya.

Group D *(Aline Sitoe Diatta Stadium, Ziquinchor)*

THIS was the most exciting of the opening groups, with Egypt as the seeded team, along with pre-tournament favourites Ghana and Zambia, third at the 1990 finals.

The Egyptians and the Zambians played first, a tough, tight encounter that saw the 1990 World Cup finalists apply heavy pressure early on but then run out of ideas.

The only goal was controversial, with a linesman raising his flag and then quickly lowering it when Bwalya steered home from close range for the Zambians.

Then came the glittering Ghanaians, complete with Yeboah, Baffoe, Lamptey and Abedi Pele. Against Zambia, some individual magic turned the result in their favour, Pele weaving through a maze of defenders before blasting home.

Thursday, January 17 = Dakar
Group B
Cameroon 1 (Omam-Biyik 15)
Zaire 1 (Tueba 1)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rachid Medjiba (Algeria).
Cautions: Mbouh (42), Kana-Biyik (64); Mukanya (28).
Cameroon: Bell; Tataw, Massing, Kunde, Ebwelle; Mbouh, Kana-Biyik, Pagal, Mfede (Ekebe 68), Omam-Biyik, Makanaky (Ebongue 74).
Zaire: Merikani; Mgombo, Buana, Lokose (Simba 79), Kusango; Mukanya, Tueba, Ndinga (Assombalanga 54), Kingambo; Balenga, Mayanga.

Thursday, January 17 = Dakar
Group A
Senegal 3 (Sane 46, Bocane 68, Diagne 89)
Kenya 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Yengo Omer (Congo).
Cautions: Bocande (4), Diagne (89); Omolo (61).
Senegal: Seck; Fall, Diallo, R Mendy, A Mendy; Cisse, Sene (Sagna 76), V Diagne; Youm, Bocande (Lah 85), Sane.
Kenya: Busolo; Ochola, Weche, Owuor, Sunguti; Mwololo, Lwanga (Koranga 79), Lukoye (Ndungu 53), Omolo; Okoth, A Odhiambo.

Friday, January 18 = Ziquinchor
Group C
Algeria 1 (Bouiche 44)
Congo 1 (Tchibota 6)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Christopher Musaabi (Uganda).
Algeria: Kadir; Megharia, Benhalima, Rahmouni, Saib; El Quazani, Belatoui, Bouiche, Madjer (Rahim 69); Bouafia (Tasfaout 69), Menad.
Congo: Samba. Nsombi, Mouyabi, Tsoumou, Ndomba; Owomat, Bouketo, Mbongo, Moukassa; Tchibota, Makita (Amoussoud 55).

Friday, January 18 = Ziquinchor
Group D
Egypt 0
Ghana 1 (Yeboah 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Kiichiro Tachi (Japan).
Dismissals: I Hassan; Armah. **Cautions:** Mansa, Abedi Pele, Ankarah; Abdelghani, Yaken.
Egypt: Shoubier; I Hassan, Ragab, Yassine, H Ramzy; Yaken, Youssef, Abdelghani, A Ramzy, Abdel Azim; H Hassan (Abdelhamid).
Ghana: Ansah; Baffoe, Apiah, Ankarah, Manso (Gargo); Lamptey (Ampeah), Abedi Pele, Armah, Abroah; Ibrahim, Yeboah.

In the final match, Egypt v Ghana, Ibrahim Hassan and Armah were sent off after 75 minutes and to Ghana's delight Yeboah scored in injury time, so that meant Egypt were out, the only team not to score.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Zambia	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Egypt	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

QUARTER-FINALS

A FEW FLUTTERS AS HOSTS GO OUT

NO big surprises, but a few flutters as Nigeria and Ghana looked decidedly shaky in parts and hosts Senegal went out of the event.

The quarter-finals were played over two days at the Amitie Stadium in Dakar, with poor crowd support and a distinct lack of atmosphere.

Nigeria and Zaire were first up and the game was going along with the form book when Rachidi Yekini claimed his third goal of the tournament, in the 22nd minute, to put Nigeria 1-0 up. Nigeria spent the rest of the match on the back foot as Zaire launched wave after wave of attacks.

Big centre-back Buana moved into the front line to assert an aerial dominance over the none-too-short Nigerians, and only some dramatic defending by the "Super Eagles" kept the scoreline intact.

Then came a tight and bruising encounter between Cameroon and Senegal, already clouded in drama before the kick-off.

Cameroon coach Philippe Redon pulled a fast one on French compatriot Claude LeRoy, in charge of the Senegalese, by dropping several key players including Tataw, Massing and Makanaky.

Diminutive defender Hans Agbo and youngsters Roger Feutmba and Guy Tapoko came in, Francois Omam-Biyik took over the captaincy and Emile Mbouh combined well in midfield with Jean-Claude Pagal.

Truth is, though, Senegal never looked like victors. There was no surprise when Cameroon scored a late decider, by Ebongue.

Next day Ivory Coast and Zambia laboured through 90 minutes, the Ivorians suffering from the absence of three key players, Zambia surprisingly tense and flat.

The woodwork saved Zambia on two occasions, but the Ivorians came on stronger toward the end, and four minutes into extra time substitute Donald Sie's shot, deflected off Eston Mulenga, won the game.

Ghana and Congo provided the best drama, starting with some crunching tackles on Pele and a dazzling run by Lamptey that ended with a simple goal for Yeboah.

But Congo were not going to play dead. They opened up Ghana's defence from both flanks and through the midfield.

Tsoumou put a free header inches wide and then, shortly after the break, with full-back Tony Baffoe hopelessly out of position, young Pierre Tchibota headed the equaliser.

So the individual genius of Abedi Pele was needed to settle the result. His surging run and acute-angled shot put Ghana into the semi-finals.

QUARTER-FINALS

Sunday, January 19 = Dakar
Nigeria 1 (Yekini 22)
Zaire 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Idrissa Sarr (Mauritania).
Cautions: Ezeurgo (36), Ugbade (49); Lokose (69), Tueba (89).
Nigeria: Agu; Ezeugo, Ugbade, Keshi, Okechukwu; Oliha, Eguavon, Adepoju, Elaho (Finidi 64); Yekini, Siasia.
Zaire: Merikani: Makengo, Ngomba (Tueba 84), Lokose, Buana; Kasongo, Mbala (Assombalanga 55), Kingambo, Ndinga; Simba, Kana.

Sunday, January 19 = Dakar
Senegal 0
Cameroon 1 (Ebongue 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Kiichiro Tachi (Japan).
Cautions: Mbouh (67), Agbo (70), Sane (83).
Senegal: Seck, Fall, R. Mendy, Teuw, A Mendy, V Diagne, Sene, Ndiaye, Youm (Ndao 81), Bocande, Sane.
Cameroon: Bell; Ebwelle, Kunde, Onana, Agbo; Kana-Biyik (Ndip 89), Mbouh, Pagal, Feutmba; Tapoko (Ebongue 81), Omam-Biyik.

Monday, January 20 = Dakar.
Ivory Coast 1 (Sie 94)
Zambia 0.
Aet.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** P-A Mounguengui (Gabon);
Cautions: Soko (34), Chambeshi (42); Gadji-Celi (70), Sekana (89).
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Aka, Sekana, Sam Abouo, Hobou; Ben Salah (Sie 73), Gadji-Celi (Lignon 89), Maguy, Kassy; A Traore, M Traore.
Zambia: Chabala; Soko, Mulenga, Changwe, Melu, Chomba; Chambeshi (Mbasela 66), Mankinka, Mwitwa; Bwalya, Chikabala (Matete 88).

Monday, January 20 = Dakar
Congo 1 (Tchibota 52)
Ghana 2 (Yeboah 29, Pele 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ibrahima Faye (Gambia).
Cautions: Mensah (44), Gyamfi (66), Ampeah (75); Tsoumou (5).
Congo: Samba; Ntounou, Tsoumou, Mouyabi (Amouzoud 86), Owomat (Okemba 40); Baloki, Nsomi, Mounkassa, Ndomba; N'Gapy, Tchibota.
Ghana: Ansah; Baffoe, Apiah, Opoku Nti (Asare 88), Abroah; Ampeah, Mensah, Lamptey, Abedi Pele; Yeboah, Ibrahim (Gyamfi 56).

SEMI-FINALS

Pele banned and Cameroon crash

TRIUMPH was tempered with tears for Ghana as they reached their seventh final.

A second yellow card meant that captain and inspiration Abedi Pele Ayew was suspended from the final and there were Gascoigne-like scenes at the final whistle as Pele wept, was carried off the pitch shoulder high, and wrapped in a Ghanaian flag.

He had been the deciding factor in a tough and uncompromising match with Nigeria, and had conjured an equaliser out of nothing to put Ghana level just before half-time, when it seemed Nigeria were going to overwhelm them.

Mutiu Adepoju put the "Super Eagles" ahead after 11 minutes and giant striker Rashidi Yekini went close on several occasions after that.

Ghana seemed shell-shocked and the booking was a further demoralising blow, but Pele lifted his team, and changed the course of the game, by sneaking in at the near post to head home a 43rd-minute corner from eight yards out.

Ghana were a different outfit after that and the winner did not take long in coming, Prince Polley Opoku, on for the injured Ali Perle Ibrahim, was the scorer in the 54th minute.

Nigeria scraped the woodwork, had a goal disallowed and were generally on top after that, but Ghana held out for a chance to extend their record of African Nations' Cup victories.

The physical style of the match was in sharp contrast to the lazy, languid second semi-final, in which Ivory Coast surprised Philippe Redon's Cameroon side.

They laboured through 120 minutes without scoring, Cameroon surprisingly off form and the Ivorians apparently without much intention of getting into the penalty area.

Francois Omam-Biyik shot high and wide on several occasions, but the best chance fell to veteran defender Emmanule Kunde after Nagbeu Lignon handled in his own area. Kunde's 15th-minute penalty was stopped by Alain Gouamene, who plays his club soccer with Raja Casablanca in Morocco.

Gouamene was to emerge as the hero of the match, going on to save a further three poor efforts in the shoot-out as the Cameroonians took penalties in a style that would have shamed an under-12 team.

Saves from Cyril Makanaky, Omam-Biyik and opposing goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell gave the Ivorians a 3-1 win.

Diaby Sekana, Moussa Traore and Abdoulaye Traore converted for the "Elephants" to put them in the final for the first time, ending a run of four semi-final appearances without success.

An era ended as Cameroon staggered off the pitch with the likes of Bell, Kunde, Stephen Tataw, Louis-Paul Mfede and Benjamin Massing now likely to make way for younger talent in the search for a place in the 1994 World Cup finals.

SEMI-FINALS

Thursday, January 23 = Dakar
Ghana 2 (Abedi Pele 43, Prince Polley 54)
Nigeria 1 (Adepoju 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Referee:** Neji Jouini (Tunisia).
Dismissal: Ajibade Babalade (75).
Cautions: Abroah (14), Abedi Pele (40).
Ghana: Ansah; Baffoe, Apiah (Ankrah 46), Abroah, Ampeah, Asare; Gyamfi, Lamptey, Abedi Pele; Yeboah, Ibrahim (Prince Polley 34).
Nigeria: Agu; Agboola, Keshi, Babalade, Ezeugo; Eguavon, Oliha, Finidi (Ekpo 67), Adepoju; Yekini, Siasia.

Thursday, January 23 = Dakar
Cameroon 0
Ivory Coast 0
Aet. Ivory Coast won 3-1 on pens.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Referee:** Lim Kee Chong (Mauritius).
Cautions: Kunde (39), Agbo (62).
Shoot-out: 0-1 Sekana; 0-1 Makanaky (saved); 0-2 M Traore; 1-2 Ebwelle: 1-2 Beugre Yago (saved); 1-2 Omam-Biyik (saved); 1-3 A Traore; 1-3 Bell (saved).
Cameroon: Bell; Onana, Ebwelle, Kunde, Agbo; Feutmba, Tapoko (Ekeke 59), Kana-Biyik, Pagal; Ebongue (Makanaky 104), Omam-Biyik.
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Aka, Lignon, Sam Abouo, Dao (A Traore 66); Sekana, Maguy, Ben Salah, Otokore; Tiehi (Beugre Yago 85), M Traore.

FULL NATIONS CUP SQUADS

A SENEGAL

Goalkeepers
Khadim Faye (Diaraf Dakar)
Mamadou Salla (Jeanne d'Arc)
Cheikh Seck (Esperance, TUNISIA)
Defenders
Mamadou Marieme Diallo (Port Autonome)
Adolphe Mendy (Jeanne d'Arc)
Jean Mendy (Diaraf Dakar)
Roger Mendy (Monaco, FRANCE)
Ibrahima Ndiaye (Etoile Sahel, TUNISIA)
Mamadou Teuw (Charleroi, BELGIUM)
Midfielders
Adama Cisse (Diaraf Dakar)
Malick Fall (Angers, FRANCE)
Oumar Gueye (Paris SG, FRANCE)
Aly Male (Jeanne d'Arc)
Lamine Ndiaye (Mulhouse, FRANCE)
Lamine Sagna (Diaraf Dakar)
Strikers
Jules Bocande (Lens, FRANCE)
Victor Diagne (Diaraf Dakar)
Mamadou Diarra (Port Autonome)
Alboury Lah (Chateauroux, FRANCE)
Moussa N'Daw (Wydad Casablanca, MOROCCO)
Souleymane Sane (Wattenscheid, GERMANY)
Thiemo Youm (Nantes, FRANCE)
Coach
Claude Le Roy

NIGERIA

Goalkeepers
Alloy Agu (MVV Maastricht, HOLLAND)
David Ngodigha (ACB Lagos)
Ike Sorunmi (Stationery Stores)
Defenders
Reuben Agboola (Swansea, WALES)
Abdul Aminu (El Kanemi Warriors)
Ajibade Babalade (Shooting Stars)
Augustine Eguavon (Courtrai, BELGIUM)
Stephen Keshi (Strasbourg, FRANCE)
Uche Okechukwu (Brondby, DENMARK)
Nduka Ugbade (Castellon, SPAIN)
Midfielders
Mutiu Adepoju (Castellon, SPAIN)
Friday Ekpo (Shell FC, GABON)
George Finidi (Calabar Rovers)
Ene Okon (Calabar Rovers)
Thompson Oliha (Iwuanyanwu Nationale)
Strikers
Johnthan Akpoborie (Saarbruucken, GERMANY)
Dotun Alatishe (Shooting Stars)
Friday Elahor (Brondby, DENMARK)
Emeka Ezeogu (Lyngby, DENMARK)
Victor Ikpeba (RC Liege, BELGIUM)
Samson Siasia (Lokeren, BELGIUM)
Rachidi Yekini (Vitoria Setubal, PORTUGAL)
Coach
Clemence Westerhof

KENYA

Goalkeepers
John Busolo (AFC Leopards)
Charles Bwire (AFC Leopards)
Kenneth Kenyatta (Reunion FC)
Defenders
Tobias Ochulla (Gor Mahia)
Francis Oduor (Kisumu Postal)
Terry Onyango (Kenya Breweries)
Vitalis Owour (OMAN)
George Sunguti (AFC Leopards)
Micky Weche (OMAN)
Midfielders
John Lukoye (OMAN)
Anthony Lwanga (AFC Leopards)
James Mbwabi (Bandari)
Henry Nyandoro (Shabana)
Sammy Omollo (Kenya Breweries)
Alfayo Odongo (Rivatex)
Strikers
Elijah Koranga (Transcom)
Henry Motego (OMAN)
Peter Mwololo (Kenya Breweries)
Simon Ndungu (Kisumu Postal)
Allan Odhiambo (Gor Mahia)
David Odhiambo (Reunion)
Mike Okoth (Kenya Breweries)
Coach
Gerry Saurer

B CAMEROON

Goalkeepers
William Andem (Olympique Mvolie)
Joseph-Antoine Bell (St Etienne, FRANCE)
Jacques Songo'o (Toulon, FRANCE)
Defenders
Hans Agbo (Prevoyance)
Bertin Ebwelle (Olympique Mvolie)
Emmanuel Kunde (Olympique Mvolie)
Benjamin Massing (Olympique Mvolie)
Victor Ndip-Akem (Canon Yaounde)
Jules-Denis Onana (Canon Yaounde)
Stephen Tataw (Olympique Mvolie)
Midfielders
Jacob Ewane (Canon Yaounde)
Roger Feutmba (Courtrai, BELGIUM)
Andre Kana-Biyik (Le Havre, FRANCE)
Emile Mbouh (Benfica CB, PORTUGAL)
Louis-Paul Mfede (Olympique Mvolie)
Jean-Claude Pagal (St Etienne, FRANCE)
Guy Tapoko (Laval, FRANCE)
Strikers
Ernest Ebongue (Varzim, PORTUGAL)
Eugene Ekeke (Valenciennes, FRANCE)
Kessack Maboang (Portimonense, PORTUGAL)
Cyrille Makanaky (Malaga, SPAIN)
Francois Omam-Biyik (Cannes, FRANCE)
Coach
Philippe Redon

MOROCCO

Goalkeepers
Khalid Azmi (Wydad Casablanca)
Abdelkader Brazi (Royal Armed Forces)
Badou Zaki (Real Mallorca, SPAIN)
Defenders
Lahcen Abrami (Wydad Casablanca)
Rachid Azzouzi (MSV Duisburg, GERMANY)
Mouhcine Bouhlal (Royal Armed Forces)
Abdelmajid Bouyboub (Wydad Casablanca)
Taher El Khalei (Kawkab Marrakech)
Jilal Fadel (Wydad Casablanca)
Noureddine Naybet (Wydad Casablanca)
Midfielders
Aziz Bouderbala (Lyon, FRANCE)
Mohamed Chaouch (Istres, FRANCE)
Rachid Daoudi (Wydad Casablanca)
Hicham Dmaei (Kawkab Marrakesh)
Moudaka Mouloud (Sidi Kacem, ALGERIA)
Dris Mrabet (Ittihad Tangler)
Khalid Raghib (Settat)
Strikers
Abdellssalem Laghrissi (Ryan, QATAR)
Hassan Nader (Real Mallorca, SPAIN)
Aziz Ouzougate (Olympique Casablanca)
Fakhreddine Rajhy (Wydad Casablanca)
Said Rokbi (Settat)
Coach
Olk Werner

ZAIRE

Goalkeepers
Pangi Merikani (Scom Mikischi)
Ngoie Taifan (FC Lupopo)
Diankolo Tomisi (Vita Club Kinshasa)
Defenders
Ngalula Buana (FC Boom, BELGIUM)
Kabwe Kusongo (Lubumbashi Sports)
Epangala Lokose (Vita Club Kinshasa)
Mbaki Makengo (RJ Wavre, BELGIUM)
Kasango Makongo (TP Mazembe)
Tshibindi Muya (FC Lupopo)
Mansoni Ngombo (Ekeren, BELGIUM)
Midfielders
Lenda Basaula (Vit. Guimaraes, PORTUGAL)
Tyambo Mara Etshele (Ajaccio, FRANCE)
Kinkomba Kingambo (St Truiden, BELGIUM)
Shimbula Mayanga (TP Mazembe)
Kabeya Mukanya (FC Lommel, BELGIUM)
Mbote Ndinga (Vit. Guimaraes, PORTUGAL)
Ekanza Simba (Vita Club Kinshasa)
Menayame Tueba (Farense, PORTUGAL)
Strikers
Ngondola Assombalanga (AS Bilima)
Mbala Henri Balenga (Ghent, BELGIUM)
Ngole Kana (Lubumbashi Sports)
Tchang Ngombe (Troyes, FRANCE)
Coach
Kalala Mukendi

C ALGERIA

Goalkeepers
Kamel Kadir (Mouloudia Alger)
Mounir Laouer (Mouloudia Constantine)
Antar Osmani (Entente Setif)
Defenders
Kamel Adjas (Entente Setif)
Omar Belatoui (MC Oran)
Ali Benhalima (Lerida, SPAIN)
Fodil Megharia (Club Africain, TUNISIA)
Mourad Rahmouni (JS Kabylie)
Liazid Sandjak (Paris SG, FRANCE)
Mohamed Tribeche (Entente Setif)
Midfielders
Cherif El Ouazani (Aydinspor, TURKEY)
Rabah Madjer (Nadi El Oatari, QATAR)
Mahieddine Meftah (JS Kabylie)
Moussa Saib (JS Kabylie)
Abdelhafid Tasfaout (ASM Oran)
Strikers
Ali Bouafia (Lyon, FRANCE)
Nasser Bouiche (Red Star, FRANCE)
Youssef Heraoui (Slovan Bratislava, CZECH)
Khaled Lounici (El Harrach)
Hakim Meddane (Famalicao, PORTUGAL)
Djamel Menad (Famalicao, PORTUGAL)
Mohamed Rahem (El Harrach)
Coach
Abdelhamid Kermali

IVORY COAST

Goalkeepers
Ali Doumbia (Africa Sports)
Alain Gouamene (Raja Casablanca, MOROCCO)
Losseni Konate (ASEC Abidjan)
Defenders
Kouame Aka (ASEC Abidjan)
Lassine Dao (ASEC Abidjan)
Arsene Hobou (ASEC Abidjan)
Nagueu Lignon (Africa Sports)
Allassane Ouatara (Africa Sports)
Lue Ruffin (Africa Sports)
Abouo Dominque Sam (ASEC Abidjan)
Diaby Sekana (No club)
Midfielders
Oumar Ben Salah (Le Mans, FRANCE)
Saint-Joseph Gadji-Celi (ASEC Abidjan)
Kouadio Lucien Kassy (ASEC Abidjan)
Serge Alain Magui (Africa Sports)
Didier Otokore (Auxerre, FRANCE)
Donald Sie (ASEC Abidjan)
Strikers
Yago Eugene Beugre (Africa Sports)
Youssouf Fofana (Monaco, FRANCE)
Joel Tiehi (Le Havre, FRANCE)
Abdoulaye Traore (ASEC Abidjan)
Moussa Traore (Ales, FRANCE)
Coach
Yeo Martial

CONGO

Goalkeepers
Bruno Matingou Mouanga (FRANCE)
Ambroise Ngoya (CARA Brazzaville)
Brice Samba (Diables Noirs)
Defenders
Florent Baloki (Diables Noirs)
Appolinaire Bouketo (Patronage)
Pierre Kallet Mbongo (Inter Club)
Celestin Mouyabi (No club)
Maurice Ntounou (Kotoko M'Foa)
Laurent Nsombi (Diables Noirs)
Yvon Okemba (Inter Club)
Midfielders
Godfrey Gaylor Bongo (Inter Club)
Jean-Claude Mbemba (Vasas Budapest, HUNGARY)
Jean-Michel Mbemba (Cherbourg, FRANCE)
Sylvian Moukassa (Diables Noirs)
Jean-Jacques Ndomba (Niort, FRANCE)
Icertain Tsoumou (Inter Club)
Simplice Nzamba (No club)
Strikers
Aristide Amouzoud (Etoile du Congo)
Francois Makita (Epernay, FRANCE)
Cesaire Babyllas Malonga (FRANCE)
Ange Ngapy (Ghent, BELGIUM)
Pierre Tchibota-Zaou (AS Cheminots)
Coach
Noel Pepe Minga

D EGYPT

Goalkeepers
Saafan El Sagir (Ismailia)
Khaled Mostafa (Ittihad)
Ahmed Shoubier (Al Ahly)
Defenders
Gamal Fawzy (Ismailia)
Ibrahim Hassan (Neuchatel Xamax, SWITZ)
Ayman Ragab (Ismailia)
Ahmed Ramzy (Zamalek)
Hani Ramzy (Neuchatel Xamax, SWITZ)
Hesham Yaken (Zamalek)
Rabih Yassine (Al Ahly)
Midfielders
Mohamed Abdel Azim (Ein. Braunschweig, GERMANY)
Magdi Abdelghani (Beira Mar, PORTUGAL)
Ahmed El Kas (Olympic)
Ashraf Kacem (Zamalek)
Tarek Soliman (El Masri)
Magdi Tolba (PAOK Salonika, GREECE)
Ismail Youssef (Zamalek)
Strikers
Gamal Abdelhamid (Zamalek)
Mohamed Abou Gerefha (Ismailia)
Esayed Eid (El Masri)
Khaled Eid (Hahalla)
Hossam Hassan (Neuchatel Xamax, SWITZ)
Coach
Mahmoud El Gohary

ZAMBIA

Goalkeepers
David Chabala (Argentinos Juniors, ARGENTINA)
Richard Mwanza (Kabwe Warriors)
Stephen Zimba (Nchanga Rangers)
Defenders
Whiteson Changwe (Kabwe Warriors)
Samuel Chomba (Kabwe Warriors)
Ashios Melu (Fagav, AUSTRIA)
Eston Mulenga (Nkana Red Devils)
John Soko (Power Dynamos)
Robert Watiyakeni (Power Dynamos)
Midfielders
Patrick Banda (Profund Warriors)
Wisdom Chansa (Power Dynamos)
Harrison Chongo (Mufulira Wanderers)
Maybin Mugaiwa (Kabwe Warriors)
Derby Makinka (Profund Warriors)
Linos Makwaza (Power Dynamos)
Mwenya Matete (Knkolo Blades)
Strikers
Kalusha Bwalya (PSV Eindhoven, HOLLAND)
Beston Chambeshi (Nkana Red Devils)
Webby Chikabala (Aalst, BELGIUM)
Gibby Mbasela (Nkana Red Devils)
Pearson Mwanza (Arab Contractors, EGYPT)
Timothy Mwitwa (Kabwe Warriors)
Coach
Samuel Ndlovu

GHANA

Goalkeepers
Edward Ansah (Ashante Kotoko)
Salifu Ansah (Hearts of Oak)
Abubakari Damba (Great Olympics)
Defenders
Emmanuel Ampiah (Ashante Kotoko)
Nii Darko Ankrah (Great Olympics)
Kwasi Appiah (Ashante Kotoko)
Emmanuel Armah (Hearts of Oak)
Issac Asare (Anderlecht, BELGIUM)
Anthony Baffoe (Fort. Dusseldorf, GERMANY)
Frimpong Manso (Ashante Kotoko)
Midfielders
Abedi Pele (Marseille, FRANCE)
Stanley Abroah (Austria Vienna, AUSTRIA)
Mohamed Gargo (Torino, ITALY)
Samuel Opoku Nti (Glaris, SWITZERLAND)
Nii Lamptey (Anderlecht, BELGIUM)
Strikers
Kofi Abbrey (Great Olympics)
Sarfo Gyamfi (FC Tyrol, AUSTRIA)
Richard Naawu (Wald. Mannheim, GERMANY)
Prince Polley Opoku (Ekeren, BELGIUM)
Ali Ibrahim Perle (Wattenscheid, GERMANY)
Yaw Preko (Anderlecht, BELGIUM)
Anthony Yeboah (Eintracht Frankfurt, GERMANY)
Coach
Otto Pfister

PRESS BOX

John **MOYNIHAN**

RIDE

THERE ARE, thank goodness, one or two consolations to be had by regular television football viewers at a time when the over-exposure of our national game on the box is threatening to reach saturation, and even worse, deadening point.

It is no good expecting the genius and expertise of heroes such as Sir Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney, Alfredo Di Stefano, Pele, and Johan Cruyff to remain part of our own personal daydreams anymore — the growing networks have all they need to remind us of twinkling toes lording it over lesser rivals in fog, rain, and merciless sunshine.

So a viewer such as myself has to be rather more selective these days and nights, finding, for example, the pleasure of rediscovering a player who one had met and warmed to in Italy while he was being hailed as an England centre-forward of the future.

Suddenly one lunchtime, for growing saloon and tavern audiences south of the border, there appeared a Bournemouth-born striker named Paul Rideout making his debut for Rangers.

Disciplined

To the less informed, Rideout was simply a new arrival to the Scottish Premier League, a replacement for the injured Mark Hateley. He certainly looked useful, a disciplined leader of his line, neat in his heading distribution, and a foil for his forward partner, Ally McCoist.

Some of us, who had known Rideout rather better, and had admired his progress with Aston Villa and then Bari in southern Italy, felt pleased, and in some way, mildly exhilarated, to see him responding so well to the welcoming chants from an expansive Ibrox crowd.

In Italy, Rideout was ambitious enough to say that playing with the likes of Rummenigge, Maradona and his hero, Platini, did not frighten him. If his form warranted a move to a more fashionable club, he would not mind joining Napoli, even though they had Diego on their books, not his French hero.

We met first in Verona, where Bari had lost. He had been given a hard time by that former farmer's boy. Hans-Peter Briegel, but had performed well, although frustrated about having to fall back and help out as an extra defender.

Gordon Cowans was very much championing his colleague's form at that time — in the chattering, green-greatcoat-embracing, sausage-nibbling atmosphere near the V.I.P. gates of the Marc Antonio Bentigodi Stadium, he was convinced Rideout should be given a chance by Bobby Robson before his final selection of the 1986 World Cup squad for Mexico.

AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST JOHN MOYNIHAN LOOKS AT ONE PLAYER'S CURIOUS CAREER

DEOUT: A PASSAGE TO IBROX

The Cowans theory was that Hateley (that man again) was not playing well, Rideout was playing far better. "It makes sense," Cowans said. Both were settled in Bari, and their form was not suffering.

It proved wishful thinking. Robson chose Cowans for a place in a World Cup warm-up team on the banks of the Nile. Not Rideout, who had every reason to feel neglected.

So he enjoyed his chocolate and ice-cream, a fondness for Stevie Wonder, Porsches and Ferraris, for media questionnaires — and waited.

The move to Glasgow could act as a magic wand for Rideout — and for those who feel protective towards him.

After the frustrations and disappointments he experienced in spells at Southampton, Swindon, the first club he played for as a professional, and Notts County, where he could almost count the crowds, Rideout needs a major breakthrough in a career which still has a reasonable time to go.

The modern facilities at Ibrox were a revelation to him. He was star struck again, wandering, inspecting his new home like a small boy seeing a Christmas tree for the first time.

Yet he had seen it all before in Italy — the splendours of San Siro, the halls of multi-millionaires. Perhaps he was trying to forget the impasses he faced in the Barclays League.

True, Rideout scored some goals there, but to those who witnessed what a bright start he made with Aston Villa and Bari, there was a feeling he might have achieved more as a player.

Rideout did not need any time to ponder such questions. "It's quite simple," he said, facing a group of new admirers in Glasgow.

"When I got back from Italy, the idea was that I should be given high balls to my head, never to my feet. It was so refreshing having the ball played to feet — it gave me new confidence."

That sounded like the old Rideout speaking, the excited 21-year-old on arrival at Bari in 1985 as part of an £800,000 package deal with his Villa midfield colleague, Cowans.

Rideout, or Reed-Oh (the Bullet) as the Bari fans called him, wasn't taken seriously at first by the more fastidious fans playing their endless games of cards in the more sinister backstreets by the harbour.

He was known as "Water and salt" — an average player — until he started scoring as Bari battled against relegation.

Rideout was suddenly important to Bari — as he is now to Rangers as the hugely popular Hateley's cover.

Robson took Gary Lineker (his salvation), Peter Beardsley, Mark Hateley (that man again) and Kerry Dixon to Mexico. He had known all about Rideout's promise — England Schoolboy international, Southampton Schools, ignored by the Dell as a prospect until cheeky Swindon stepped in, England Youth team (six appearances) with Graham Taylor in charge, and four with the England Under-21s — Dave Sexton cooing his praises. Rideout waited in vain.

The Italian magazine, *Guerin Sportivo* had even singled out Rideout for selection in a Stars of a Serie A team: Piotti (Atalanta), Zaccarelli (Torino), Bergomi (Inter), Maldini (Milan), Gerolin (Roma), De Napoli (Avellino), Wilkins (Milan), Boniek (Roma), Serena (Juventus), Platini (Juventus), and last, but not least, Rideout (Bari).

Maybe he thought, Serie A wasn't all it was cracked up to be — but he was playing a leading part.

Rideout learnt to live with such extravagances — the great make-believe can be a killer in Italian football. One minute you're the king, then you're down. Jimmy Greaves sulked and went home as early as he could. Rideout stayed on in the Serie B until he left Italy to make a new career for himself at the Dell in 1988.

I saw him quite regularly from then on, but his form was fitful. The old confidence seemed to have gone. At Villa Park, in one stormer of a match, he made very little impression, following instruction to keep going down the middle.

His friend, Gordon Cowans (above), playing for the other side, and Bari-bound David Platt looked far more believable as class players. And if you had to pick a potential international from Southampton that afternoon, that had to be Matthew Le Tissier.

Managed

Sometimes since his return from Bari, Rideout has managed to revive memories of his Italian high life — significantly, on one spring afternoon at Anfield when Southampton lost by the odd goal in five.

Bruce Grobbelaar was celebrating his 500th appearance for Liverpool, but he could have done without the screeching whistle Rideout's header made as the former Bari bullet rammed in Kevin Moore's knock-back from Jimmy Case's free-kick.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, believes this is the form Rideout can show now that he is installed in the much grander ambience of the revamped Ibrox. "I was very impressed with Paul's start — he'll be valuable for our bid to win the Premier League," said Smith.

It was rather encouraging, from Rideout's point of view, to hear the enthusiasm of another former Villa player, Andy Gray, in his television analysis of the debut. Gray rated Rideout a first-class buy.

One thing I'm sure of, as an ideal box viewer: Rideout, with Hateley and McCoist's help, could make a name for himself in Scottish football, and make all his previous uncertainties a bad English dream. To feet, to feet!

Cradle snatchers charter

EUROPEAN RULE CHANGE MEANS BIG MONEY FOR TINY TOTS

A CHANGE in European soccer legislation is likely to make the discovery of young talent even more important than it is today.

One effect could be a lowering of the average age of top teams; another is sure to be the growth in complaints about "corruption" of the young.

The change, agreed by UEFA to take effect from next season, permits clubs engaged in European competitions to field five foreign-born players at any one time, instead of four as at present.

But there are two important provisos: at least two of those five must have lived in their club's country of origin for five consecutive years, and they must have played in junior football for three of those years.

The alteration has received little or no publicity so far, but it could have far-reaching effects on the game, and the youngsters who play it.

Boys barely eight years old are being tempted with pocket money and free kit to pledge their allegiance to clubs ready to invest in prospective stars.

In Holland some six-year-olds are already affiliated to league clubs. In Italy, 14-year-old boys receive their first wage packet from a football club. In Spain a 15-year-old and a 17-year-old have signed contracts with Barcelona. Should they break the agreement, they are liable to pay the club hefty compensation.

WORLD SOCCER revealed last year that two 16-year-olds, graduates from England's School of Excellence, had been transferred to the French club Auxerre — the first case in European football of players moving from one country to another at such a tender age.

Kevin Sharp and Jamie Forrester, both from Blackpool, were spotted by an Auxerre scout in an Under-15 international between England and France at Wembley. They signed four-year contracts with Auxerre and already have played in the French Youth Cup final.

Auxerre have an extensive scouting network, and even applied for a European Community grant to support it.

Ajax and Anderlecht are well-known for their recruiting activities among Danish youngsters. Other clubs are bound to follow suit: last month, we revealed Italian transfer activities in the teenage African market.

Eligible

Clearly some intend to trade their cheaply-acquired youngsters with clubs in other countries, where after five years they would become eligible to play in international tournaments. But now there is an uproar in Germany, where a well-known official in youth football, Helmut Schneider, is protesting to the DFB (FA) and in the media.

"We must stop this practice to protect the future of football," he says. "Big clubs are attracting eight-year-olds, offering pocket money, kits and free transport.

"As a long-serving official, I say we must take steps to ban the poaching of schoolboys. A number of junior teams fall apart when they lose their best players."

In Italy all top clubs finance schools for soccer-mad youngsters. Even the relatively modest First Division outfit Atalanta of Bergamo run four boarding schools for 14-year-old footballers.

The chief scout, Doriano Bettini, invites parents to sign an agreement worth £23,000, or more, if the junior is exceptionally talented. The money is divided between the parents and the club releasing the player. Quite often substantial amounts are deposited in the youngster's name at a bank.

Every boarding school has about £300,000 a year at its disposal for the purpose of hiring young talent.

In those schools the youngsters receive football tuition from highly-qualified coaches, as well as normal education classes. They train four times a week, three hours at a time, and receive "wages" of £200 a month.

At 16 they graduate to the youth team and become full professionals.

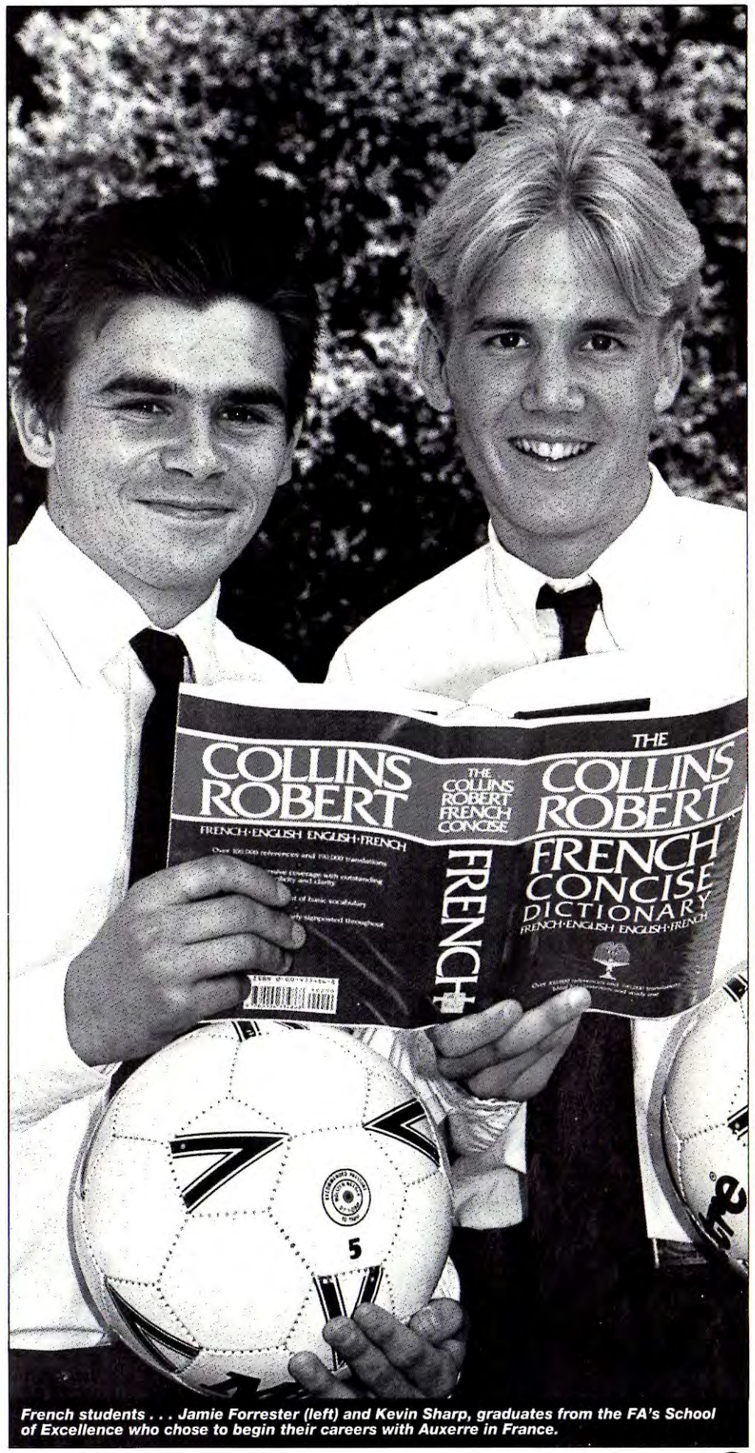
In Italy there is even a transfer market for juniors; kids as young as 10 can sign associate forms with League clubs. Italian international Roberto Mancini, transferred at 17 from Bologna to Sampdoria in 1982, cost a record fee for a teenager: £2 million. He earned £80,000 then, and is now on £600,000 a year.

Barcelona starlets Ivan de la Pena, 15, and Oscar Arpon, 17, are living in the club's boarding house while they attend school. They cost nothing, but should they leave before the end of their contract, they are liable to recompense the club with a substantial refund.

Barcelona insisted on that clause when they discovered that Real Madrid were after the pair.

Arpon is on £60,000 a year. When he signs full professional terms at 18, he could be earning £100,000.

Spanish FA officials are highly critical of these devious signings, especially the extraordinary compensation clause. But the club have not broken any rules.



French students . . . Jamie Forrester (left) and Kevin Sharp, graduates from the FA's School of Excellence who chose to begin their careers with Auxerre in France.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL** WS

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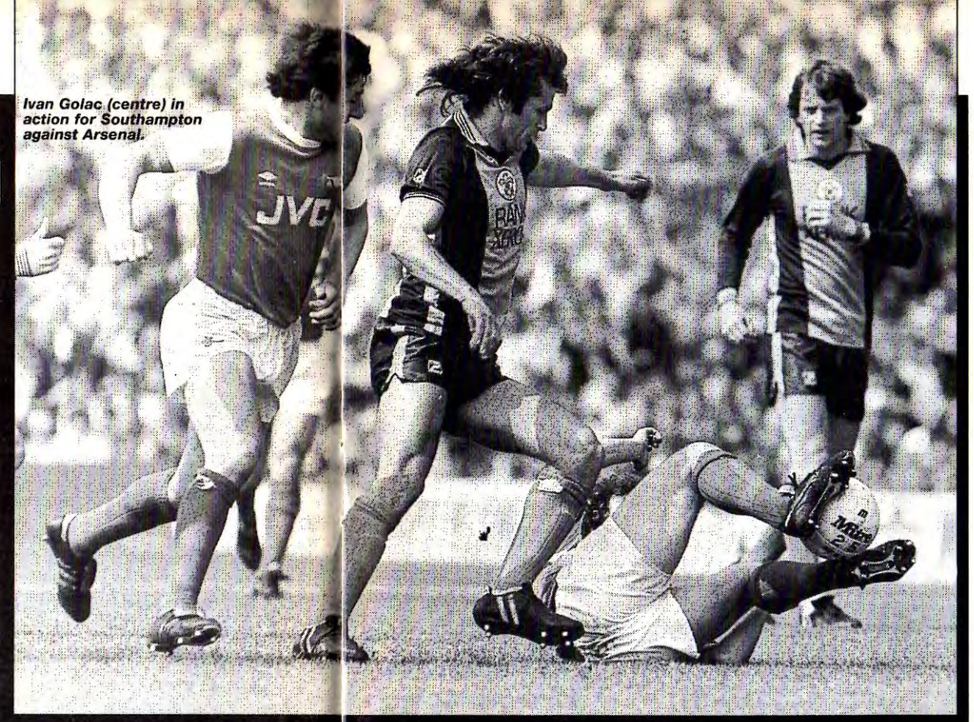
FIT FOR NOTHING

Your game is too physical, says Golac



Ivan Golac (centre) in action for Southampton against Arsenal.

DID you know that Ivan Golac was the first overseas player to join a Football League club in modern times?

Yugoslav full-back Golac signed amateur forms for Southampton in the summer of 1978, before Tottenham's highly-publicised sweep for Argentina's Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa.

Fourteen years on, Golac surveys a vastly different scene and doesn't like it. On a visit to England — he still has a home at Chandlers Ford near the palatial residence of the man who signed him, Lawrie McMenemy — he is scathing about what has happened in our game.

"In the last five years it seems to have gone mad," he said. "It is too physical, too fast. Too much emphasis is put on fitness and not enough on ballwork.

"All the First Division teams used to have seven or eight really good, skilful players. At Southampton I was playing with class — Alan Ball, Mike Channon, Kevin Keegan and Charlie George. Now I have to struggle to think of names of good players in the First Division. Clubs are paying £1m or more for average players.

"Mind you, there is a general decline on the Continent as well. There are so many other things for kids to do. In Yugoslavia basketball and handball are the sports they like to play, not football."

Golac, an FA full-badge coach, had nearly four years managing sides in Yugoslavia, including the leading club, Partizan Belgrade. In the 1989-90 European Cup-winners' Cup he was in charge when Partizan lost 5-4 at Celtic in the first round, but went through on away goals.

Spurned

Celtic's directors remembered that game — "one of the finest European ties I have ever seen" says Golac — when they came to appointing a new manager this season.

Golac was on the short list along with Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and Tommy Craig, but the Scots spurned the opportunity to inject Continental ideas into Scottish football, and gave the job to Brady.

"I feel I have a lot to offer," said Golac. "It's a simple game, about receiving the ball, passing it and moving. But here most of the training is about running and trying to make the players fitter. If they are supposed to be so much fitter now, why are so many of them breaking down with ankle and groin injuries?

"Pre-season fitness training is important but once the matches start you don't need hard physical training. The coaches should be working on ball skills. All their work should be with the ball.

"Liverpool used to win the League almost every year because that's what they did. They won it because all their players could pass properly and didn't give the ball away.

"English players are too tense. They need to relax more when they are trying to control the ball.

"Look at the free-kicks. You need subtlety to beat goalkeepers over the wall, not power. The contact should be soft, not hard."

Only one foreigner, Ardiles of Newcastle, runs a Football League side, although most teams have broken away from the traditional 4-4-2 and tried new formations. Golac maintains that English football is still far too insular.

"When I came here and Ossie and Ricky Villa came in the same year I thought things would change," he said. "They have, for the worse."

Josef Venglos — remember him? — failed as manager of Aston Villa, which was seen by many club directors as a sign that the best European coaches cannot adapt to the requirements of a League that stands on its own.

The Italian League is the best in the world because it is an assimilation of all the outstanding playing and coaching talents in the world.

According to Golac, we are striving to keep up with it by using antiquated methods. He fears the advent of the Premier League will not improve matters. It is a sobering thought.

BRIAN **SCOVELL** WS

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Neil Webb is dismissed during the 0-0 draw in Algeria after a clash with Rahim.

Life on the B side

A 40-YEAR TALE OF UPS AND DOWNS

THE long up-and-down history of the "B" international has taken a new turn since Graham Taylor became England team manager.

Taylor is a great believer in the value of "B" games, which enable younger players on the fringe of full caps to gain experience of different styles and different team-mates.

The theory is that they will learn to adapt to the methods adopted by the full international side, and become more accustomed to the styles of varied foreign opponents at a time when most English clubs are still absent from European club competition.

Although the timing of Taylor's latest "B" venture — against the Spanish Olympic selection in the week before Christmas — led to some criticism, he is determined to press on with this method of bridging the gap between Under-21 and full international ranking.

England "B" first appeared on the scene some 40 years ago, with a two-match trip to Europe at the end of the 1948-49 season.

Goals by Jimmy Mullen, Johnny Morris and Dennis Wilshaw (2) brought an easy 4-0 victory in Finland, and three days later that score was repeated before a 60,000 crowd in Amsterdam, with a hat-trick by Jack Rowley and a fourth goal from Eric Parsons, known as "Rabbit" to West Ham fans.

The idea grew in popularity in the following season, with five "B" matches staged — partially as trials before the selection of the World Cup squad to go to Brazil that summer.

Switzerland were beaten 5-0 in Sheffield, with goals from all five forwards — Gray, Baily, Briggs. Froggatt and Rickett, but the Dutch made England work hard for their victory at Newcastle. The winner came from Nat Lofthouse, on his only appearance at this level.

Then followed three matches on an overseas tour, with the Dutch exacting 3-0 revenge after the "B" team's first defeat, 5-0 by Italy in Milan.

Even against Luxembourg the English had to struggle, winning 2-1 with a double from Arsenal's Reg Lewis, to follow the two he had scored in the Cup Final a month earlier.

Decided

Almost two years passed before the next appearance, in Amsterdam, where a penalty by Luton winger Bert Mitchell decided a tight match.

Later that season came the record "B" defeat, 7-1 to France in Le Havre. Ray Barlow scored the consolation goal.

The next year, 1953, brought the first game against another British "B" squad. Scotland were held 2-2 at Hibernian's Easter Road ground. Burnley's Bill Holden scoring twice and hitting the bar.

The Scots also provided the opposition in March 1954, at Sunderland, in Britain's first senior representative match under floodlights. A crowd of 21,000 braved mist, cold and increased prices to see a 1-1 draw, with Johnny Haynes giving the first of many memorable performances in an England jersey.

Haynes . . . debut against Scotland.

Three weeks later, in Gelsenkirchen, Haynes and clubmate Bedford Jezzard were outstanding in a 4-0 win over West Germany, with three goals for Jezzard and one for Les Shannon.

Again a brief summer tour followed, with defeats in Yugoslavia (2-1, despite another Jezzard goal) and Switzerland (2-0).

The only game of 1953-54 was in Sheffield, with West Germany drawing 1-1 via a penalty after Roy Swinburne had opened the scoring.

There were three matches in 1955-56 — a 2-2 draw against the Scots, a 5-1 defeat of Yugoslavia and a 4-1 win over the Swiss. Tommy Taylor, later to die at Munich, scored three in the final game.

February 6, 1957, brought the first win over a Scottish side after three defeats — Brian Clough was among the scorers in a 4-1 result — but this proved to be the last "B" match in England for 22 years.

Many countries were now favouring Under-23 matches, and the developing interest in the European Nations Cup (later the European Championship) dovetailed with the four-year World Cup cycle.

There was also the growth of the European competitions, yet this in turn led to the reinstatement of the "B" concept. Under-23 eventually became Under-21, which was fine for youngsters but left nothing for those coming to international football at a later stage.

So England's "B" team eventually reappeared in February 1978, when goals by Liverpool's Terry McDermott and David Fairclough brought a 2-1 win over West Germany in snowy Augsburg, and at the end of the season a five-match tour was led by team manager Bobby Robson.

England tired in the heat of Malaysia and drew 1-1, but they won easily in three tests against the New Zealand national XI, 4-0, 3-1 and 4-0 again.

Taylor . . . hat-trick against the Swiss.

On the way home, a stop in Singapore brought an 8-0 win, with the goals shared by seven players.

There were two matches in 1978-79, a 1-0 win in Czechoslovakia and another in Austria, with the lights failing and a storm adding to the problems. Before the blackout, England had gone ahead with a goal by a developing star, Bryan Robson.

Missed

New Zealand eventually brought the "B" concept back to England, in the autumn of '79, in the unlikely surroundings of Brisbane Road, Leyton. England won 4-1, despite a missed penalty, and won again, 1-0, against a violent Spanish outfit at Sunderland.

In the following season there were odd-goal victories over the United States (a Derek Statham winner) and Australia (Alan Sunderland), and a 3-2 defeat by Spain.

Not surprisingly, in view of these results, interest again waned and nearly four years went by before New Zealand reappeared and drew a crowd of 3,854 to the City Ground, Nottingham, to see a 2-0 England win.

So the Bees went back into the hive for another three years, and a 2-0 win over those Maltese giants.

Eventually, Bobby Robson — now overall England boss — decided that the concept was worth some perseverance.

The result was seven matches in under a year, to give the manager some food for thought.

Paul Gascoigne's emergence was the best plus factor in a series that comprised three tour games (won 2-0 in Switzerland, 2-0 in Iceland and 1-0 in Norway), a 1-1 draw in Brighton against a young Italian team including a certain Toto Schillachi, a 2-1 win over Yugoslavia, a 4-1 defeat by the Republic of Ireland, and a 2-0 victory against the Czechs.

The Irish match was a disaster — the worst "B" defeat for 38 years, after Dalian Atkinson had scored an early opener.

Under Graham Taylor, the "B" team stuttered rather than shone last season.

Manchester United midfielder Neil Webb became the first England "B" player to be sent off in the 0-0 draw against Algeria.

Wales, the 22nd opponents England had met at this level, were unlucky to lose by the only goal, the same score had to suffice against Iceland, and the Swiss lost only 2-1 before an encouraging crowd at Walsall's new Bescot Stadium.

Yet that match showed how the "B" squad can be of some use to the manager:

Sheffield Wednesday striker David Hirst's two goals put him on the plane for the summer tour, and his first full cap.

And that, to coin a soccer cliche, is what it's all about.

STEVE **CORBETT** WS

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Very upset

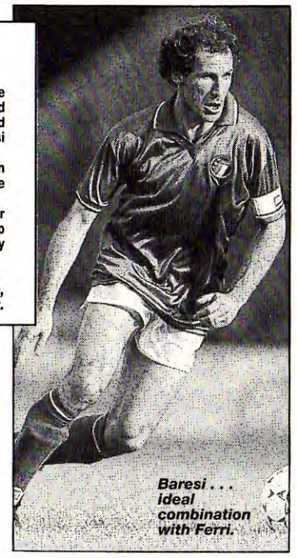
SIR — I am sorry to have to agree with Mr Phillips (December) concerning football in the United States.
Unfortunately I feel that the main cause of this unpopularity is due to our established athletic institutions, such as basketball, baseball, and, of course, American football.
American fathers do not want their sons to grow up to be football players. For some inane reason, Americans cannot appreciate the beauty of this foreign game.
Furthermore, Americans are spoiled by the high scoring in basketball and football, and are therefore not impressed by the 0-0 results becoming all too common in Europe.
Finally, with role models such as Michael Jordan and Joe Montana, what American would want to look up to our national team's current stars, including Bruce Murray and John Harkes?
I am very distressed by the almost complete ignorance of football in the United States. For an enthusiast like myself who enjoys watching a flowing, attractive football game, the American attitude is quite perplexing.
I believe that even if the United States wins the World Cup in 1994, the feelings of Americans will not change. Football is always going to remain a second-rate, foreign game with very little chance of ever becoming popular.
— MITCHELL BHOOPAT, Westminster, CA 92683 U.S.A.

Premier point

SIR — If the Premier Leagues goes through, after a period of time the number qf clubs will thin down to 18. That's all right for the First Division teams, but what about the other 70 or so clubs? Most of them don't have big squads to rely on.
I suggest taking the positions of the 93 clubs at the end of the next season and dividing them into five divisions, with 18 clubs in the first, 18 in the second, and 19 in the third, fourth and fifth. There should also be four promotion places, with no play-offs.
The Vauxhall Conference should have four teams going up, because most top sides in the Conference are better than bottom-of-the-League sides.
The Fourth and Fifth Divisions would contest the first and second rounds of the FA Cup, therefore leaving some spaces for non-League sides.
In Scotland some similar arrangement should be taken. This would allow time for a winter break.
— SEAN LYNCH, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Rep. of Ireland.

Credit is due

SIR — I was very disappointed to see that the World XI published in December was devoid of two of the most experienced and proficient defenders, Ferri and Baresi (together the ideal combination).
For a long time now these two have given Italy a stronger defence than any other side in the world.
Although Italia '90 was a disappointment for the Italians, they conceded only two goals up to and including their semi-final defeat by Argentina.
Give the Italians some credit!
— MICHAEL PLIMMER, Taunton, Somerset.


Baresi . . . ideal combination with Ferri.

French farce

SIR — I read with great dismay that the *WORLD SOCCER* poll had resulted in Jean-Pierre Papin, Michel Platini and France taking first place in the three categories.
Papin cannot be crowned because he does not possess the criteria for being No. 1 — winning the World Cup or one of the three European trophies, or even playing in the world's best league. France have never won a single European trophy.
The same applies to Platini, as coach. And France failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup.
Yugoslavia, considering the upheaval there, deserved the team nomination.
— TEJAN YULLAH, Banjul, The Gambia.

Africa 1998?

SIR — I cannot help but disagree with the unbalanced views expressed by Messrs. Blom and Eastman (October) in relation to Africa's inadequate infrastructure, management and financial aptitude to host a major tournament.
The Kingdom of Morocco has the requisite sports infrastructure to cope with the 1998 World Cup.
Internal communications are of a high standard.
The same can be said of Egypt and Nigeria and to a lesser extent of Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya.
A lot of interest has been generated in Europe, the Middle and Far East and North America vis-a-vis the 16th African Nations' Cup in Senegal.
Most, if not all, of the matches will be televised for audiences in Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, South America and Continental Europe.
Whether they like it or not, Messrs Blom, Eastman and others will have to come to terms with the fact that the World Cup could be staged in an African/Asian country in the not too distant future. Morocco in my opinion fits the bill.
More so because of that kingdom's affinity with the African, Arab, French and Spanish-speaking worlds, among other attributes. Morocco staged the African Nations' Cup in 1988 successfully.
Greater representation for the Africa, CONCACAF and Asian regions is long overdue. If need be, at the expense of the lesser European and South American footballing nations.
— JUDE DANG-A-MUA-ITUNG, Reading, England.

New fan's view

SIR — I am 14, and proof that soccer is not boring and can attract new fans. Of course there are boring matches from time to time, but the same goes for other sports.
I really got into football during Italia '90. Some people say this was one of the poorest World Cups, but for me it was great.
Then I thought that FIFA and UEFA must be full of knowledgeable people who really cared about soccer. I couldn't be more wrong.
Those people don't know what it's like to stand on a terrace, soaking wet, and cheer your team. They don't know how it feels when your team lose on penalties.
They certainly don't know how it feels to find that the biggest event in the soccer calendar has been given to a country whose average citizen knows nothing about the game and doesn't want to know.,
Surely the fact that players have their names printed on their shirts show the level of ignorance in the United States.
I'm going to enjoy the 1994 World Cup. I'd enjoy it so much more if it had been held in a South American, African or Asian country.
— BETHAN COLLINS, Merthyr Tydfil, Wales.

PENPALS

BRAZILIAN, 15, soccer magazine collector, seeks penfriends. All letters answered in English, Italian or Portuguese.
— Guilhermo Merolli, Rua Teixeira Mendes 360, Jardim Social 82.520, Curitiba, Brazil.

ABERDEEN fan, 17, wants to contact supporters of Feyenoord, Juventus, IFK Gothenburg and Paris S-G. M/F, 16 plus. Please write in English.
— Iain Mackinnon, 22 Carinish, North Uist, Inverness-shire, Scotland PA82 5HN.

GHANAIAN soccer fan, 29, seeks penfriends, m/f.
— Anthony Kwame Hayford, c/o Cadman Appiah-Ofori, PO Box 015, Takoradi, Ghana.

ENGLISH 17-year-old, female, wishes to correspond with 18-20-year-old males, preferably English.
— Caroline Moffatt, 10 Pyrah Street, Wyke, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD12 9HP.

NORWEGIAN fans of Internazionale seeks penpals from England.
— Jens Olav Graver, Vollseien 106, 1342 Jar, Norway.

ABERDEEN and Inter Milan fan wants penpals worldwide. All letters answered in English.
— Ian McGarva, 14 Oakland Avenue, Stranraer, Wigtownshire DG9 OBL, Scotland.

STUDENT, 17, wants to hear from soccer followers anywhere in the world.
— Gilril Colley, c/O Lemmin Colley, Customs & Excise Dept., Banjul, The Gambia.

I'M a soccer fan in Nepal, wanting penfriends who write in English.
— Manish, Cha-2, 502 Kholaghal, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal.

GREETINGS from Moscow! I'm 22, a Spartak Moscow supporter, and will be happy to hear from fans of Liverpool, Forest, Spurs, Ajax and AC Milan.
— Andrew Jakov, ul. F. Poletaev 19-1-135, Moscow 109378.

I'M 18 and my favourite players are Tony Daley, David Platt, Tony Cascarino and Gary Lineker. Other fans, please write.
— Tony Okonkwo, 6 Bankole Street, Off Balogun Area, Lagos, Nigeria.

DERBY and Sunderland supporter, 22, seeks female penfriends of any club, particularly Vitesse Arnhem, Ajax, Utrecht and Feyenoord.
— Andrew Harby, 10 Main Road, Bradwell, Nr Sheffield, S30 2JG, England.

SHE OR HE? No matter. All writers welcomed by 22-year-old soccer and music fan.
— Levinico Mbilinuyi, Oljoro JKT (Kilimo), PO Box Oljoro, Arushua, Tanzania.

TWO BROTHERS, 19, crazy football fans, would like to correspond with fans worldwide. Please write in English.
— Seva and Nick, Profsoyunznaya str. 43020802, Moscow 117420.

I'M 25, supporter of Moscow Spartak and Kiev Dynamo, and hoping to make penfriends who can write in English.
— Igor Novikov, Flat 46, 35a Karl Marx Street, Gvardeyskoye, Crimean SSR, USSR.

ANDERLECHT and Sunderland fan, 24, male, seeks female fans in Belgium/Holland.
— Carl, 12 Cavendish Gardens, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 OEN, England.

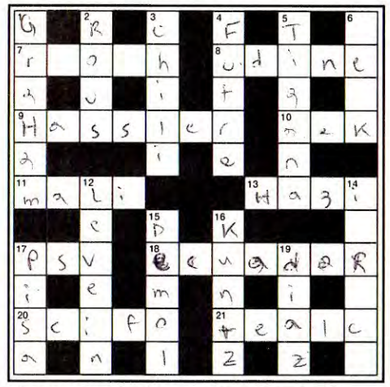
EUROPEAN football fan would like pen friends in Belgium, especially Mechelen fans.
— Dave Bradshaw, 9 Stuart Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IPII 95X, England.

SOCCER fans, 15+, please write (with photo if possible). Stop reading and start writing!
— Philip Boncey, 7 Watermead Road, Farlington, Portsmouth, PO6 ILL, England.

SPURS fan, female, wants to correspond with fans of England, USSR.
— Rina Sugamata,340-106, Yawata, Ichihara, Chiba, 290 Japan.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY
Christine Ansell



Clues Across
7. Millwall manager capped 25 times by Scotland (5)
8. City of N.E. Italy whose Friuli Stadium played host during Italia '90 (5)
9. Midfielder whose move from Cologne cost Juventus £5.5m (7)
10. Athens club represented in the 1991-92 UEFA Cup (1.1.1.)
11. African nation — birthplace of 5 down (4)
13. £2m Romanian star recruited by Real Madrid from Steaua in 1990 (4)
17. Bobby Robson's Dutch champions from Eindhoven (1.1.1.)
18. S. American country whose clubs include Emelec and Nacional (7)
20. Torino's Belgian midfield star (5)
21. Aston Villa's former Bournemouth central defender (5)

Clues Down
1. England's Manager of the Year, 1989 & 1991 (6)
2. Englishman appointed FIFA President in 1961 (4)
3. Country to which Colo Colo brought home the '91 Libertadores Cup (5)
4. Portuguese wide man who joined Atletico Madrid in '87 (5)
5. Black Pearl of Hidalgo's France (6)
6. Manager of Cambridge United (4)
12. Hearts defender first capped by Scotland in 1990 (6)
14. Nation scheduled for admission to UEFA competition in '92 (6)
15. Belgian international defender with experience at Porto & Cologne (5)
16. Skipper of Kaiserslautern's 1991 championship side (5)
17. Italian club where Castagner replaced Giannini in September! (4)
19. Argentine forward who returned from Monaco to River Plate in '91 (4)

JANUARY SOLUTION
ACROSS: 2. Ancelotti, 6. Tiler, 7. Milan, 9. Santos, 10.Jair, 12. UNAM, 14. Bochum, 17. Agana, 18. Jorge, 19. Bishvets.
DOWN: 1. Batistuta, 2. Allon, 3. Carlos, 4. Lima, 5.Tolka, 8. Nuremberg, 11. Dorjee, 13. Adams, 15. Harps, 16. Lato.

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S. America

River's roll to glory

BY ERIC WEIL

RIVER PLATE finished top of the National A Division's opening tournament and Boca Juniors took second place — but there was not much of the old rivalry about it.

River went through their first 13 matches unbeaten — creating a club record on the way — and then coasted to the title with a final seven-point lead, although on the day they were crowned champions they lost their second match running to Argentinos Juniors. Boca Juniors had lost a couple of hours earlier, so missing their final opportunity to catch up.

Boca had won the previous season's closing championship, with River halfway down the table. What brought the change?

Ramon Diaz returned to River Plate from Monaco for this season and finished as championship top scorer with 14 goals, but his contribution was more than that.

He made the whole team play faster, and speed was one of their main weapons this time, blunted only on the few occasions they had to play on muddy fields.

Confidence

Coach Daniel Passarella, their former international defender and national captain, says that another important addition to the team was goalkeeper Angel Comizzo, whose safety between the posts brought confidence to the defence.

Passarella, who took River to the national title in 1989-90, said he had gained a lot in experience.

Apart from that, River Plate were again superior to their rivals individually in most instances, and managed to impose their own rhythm in most games.

Others to do well included defender and captain Jorge Higuain and young J.J. Borrelli — an excellent support for Diaz.

That other Ramon, Medino Bello, unfortunately had to be sold (to Panathinaikos) towards the end of the year.

River needed the cash. They are reported to be owing 6.2 million dollars in taxes (mainly from player transfers) and are being pressed to pay.

Boca Juniors helped their own downfall by dismantling a winning team, losing goals when Gabriel Batistuta and Graciani went to Italy and Switzerland respectively.

They also bought badly and none of their five newcomers lived up to his reputation.

Spectator violence continued week after week. Two matches were suspended when players were felled by objects thrown from the stands, and River Plate fans behaved particularly badly when their team finally lost two games in a row — even on the day they gained the title — throwing seats on to the field and at police.

Diaz . . . top scorer with 14 goals.

RAI — full name Rai Souza de Oliveira — scored all three goals for Sao Paulo FC in the first leg of the Sao Paulo State League Final, and helped them to add their state title to the national one.

Rai leads the way

The second leg with Corinthians ended 0-0, and Rai finished as the championship's top scorer with 20 goals.

Rai, the new star midfielder of the Brazilian national team, is 26 and the younger brother of former international midfielder Socrates, but he says humbly: "I'm not even a third of the player Socrates was."

Sao Paulo's success this season came as a result of attacking play under former national team coach Tele Santana, who has now won championships as a manager in four states; Rio, Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul were the other three.

But Sao Paulo had to defend all out to draw 0-0 with Palmeiras.

The result left both sharing top place of one semi-final group, but Sao Paulo went into the final by gaining more points during the whole season. The match was watched by 110,000.

Even more — 120,000 — saw Flamengo and Botafogo draw 2-2 at Maracana in the final game of the second round of the Guanabara (Rio) State League.

The result left both level on points at the top, but Flamengo assured themselves of a title play-off with Fluminense, the first-stage winners, through having gained most points in both rounds.

The first leg of the final was a 1-1 draw, goalkeeper Pinto saving Fluminense from defeat, but Flamengo also dominated the second leg and won 4-2.

Earlier in this championship, America Tres Rios had five players sent off for protesting at a goal, leaving their team without enough players on the field to carry on and so losing the points to Itaperuna.

Internacional won the Rio Grande do Sul State title in spite of losing 2-0 to Gremio in the second leg of the final, but Gremio were due to protest because Internacional players did not take drugs tests after winning the first leg 3-0.

Atletico Mineiro, unsurprisingly, won the Minas Gerais championship.

Flamengo's Paulo Nunes holds off two Fluminense defenders in the Rio State Final.

PARAGUAY

SOL SHINING

LITTLE Sol de America, who had been fighting to keep clear of a relegation place early in the season, won the First Division championship for the second time.

They beat title-holders Cerro Porteno 3-2 on aggregate (1-1, 2-1).

The top two teams of both two sections of the eight-team final round entered knockout semi-finals, in which Cerro knocked out Olimpia and Sol beat Guarani, but in both cases a play-off was necessary.

Sol de America, under Argentine coach Hector Corte, will play in this year's Libertadores Cup with Cerro Porteno, who won the national championship earlier in the season.

CHILE

COLO COLO'S HAT-TRICK

COLO COLO came back from defeat in the World Club (Intercontinental) Cup in Tokyo to win the Chilean title for the third year running, but not without problems.

Arrangements had been made in their absence to televise their match against second-placed Coquimbo Unido, but Colo Colo would have none of it, claiming that TV would harm their interests. Colo Colo took the case to court and the FA suspended the tournament and threatened sanctions against the club. Coquimbo Unido threatened to complain to FIFA.

Colo Colo finally agreed to play on TV, providing that the FA would look into the whole matter of TV contracts. The match ended 0-0, thus deciding the title. FA officials were on hand to present the trophy, but the Colo Colo management would not receive it until the championship was over and ordered the team off as soon as the game ended.

The FA officials, now getting fed up with the club and with nobody to give the trophy to, put it on the field and left.

Coquimbo Unido accompany Colo Colo into this year's Libertadores Cup, but as the latter are the holders, Chile will have three clubs in the tournament. The third will come from a play-off between the third-to-eighth clubs.

URUGUAY

TEJERA HEADS TITLE SURGE

DEFENSOR Sporting won the Uruguayan title for the third time, and kept it out of the hands of "giants" Nacional and Penarol for the fifth year running.

The Nacional-Penarol domination was ended in 1976 when Defensor won their title, and they did it again in 1987. Then Danubio, Progreso and Bella Vista — all small clubs — were champions in the next three seasons.

This time, after an uncertain start with many team changes and a mixture of youth and experience, under coach Jose Anuntchain, Defensor gradually improved.

Their star is one of the season's revelations, 18-year-old midfielder Marcelo Tejera, already in his third season of First Division football.

Both Nacional and Penarol — second and third respectively — have fallen on hard times financially and, instead of being buyers, have had to sell leading players. Penarol, leading at one time during the season, could not celebrate their 100th anniversary in 1991 with the title they last won in 1987.

Consolation

Nacional's last win was in 1981, and their frustration resulted in the dismissal of coach Raul Moller, who took over earlier in the season. He was replaced by Roberto Fleitas, who coached the club in 1988.

Ironically Nacional might have won the title if they realised that Danubio had included a suspended player when winning their meeting 1-0. Nacional could have claimed the points which would have left them one in front at the end of a close race, decided on the last day.

The only consolation — apart from qualifying for the Libertadores Cup places play-off with the others in the top six — was that their Panamanian striker, Julio Dely Valdez, finished top scorer with 15 goals.

Paulinho (Penarol's Brazilian) and Ramon Castro (Wanderers) were second with nine.

PERU

20-PENALTY PLAY-OFF

SPORTING Cristal, winners of the season's first championship in Peru, also won the second, making a title play-off unnecessary.

But they needed a dramatic extra play-off and a penalty shoot-out.

The four final-round teams were all from the Metropolitan League and round robin play left Sporting and defending champions Universitario de Deportes tied with four points each. The play-off ended 1-1 and 20 penalty shots were needed before Sporting won 8-7.

The play-off for the right to accompany Sporting into this year's Libertadores Cup also had to be decided by penalties after a 3-3 draw. Sport Boys beat Universitario 5-4.

Sporting Cristal's tenth title in their 36 years came under coach Juan Carlos Oblitas, a former international, with Argentine veteran Horacio Baldessari as leading scorer.

They hit it off with a mixture of experienced veterans such as Baldessari, Carlos Arteaga, Julio Anton, Guillermo La Rosa and Leonardo Rojas, and youngsters Roberto Palacios, Pablo Zegarra, Orlando Prado and Flavio Maestri.

A Brazilian, Marco Dos Santos "Marquinho" of Sport Boys, was voted the best player in the championship. His team-mate, Paraguayan Jacinto Rodriguez, was the best goalkeeper.

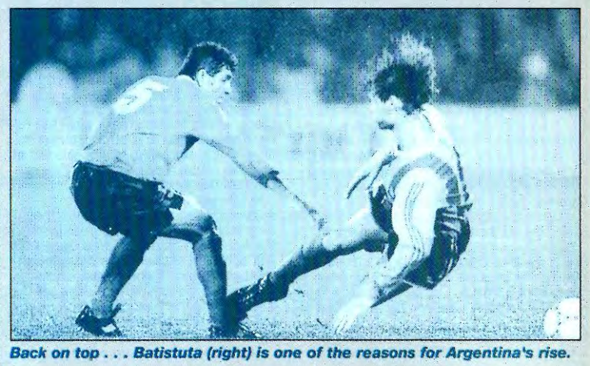
ARGENTINA'S YEAR

BUT BRAZIL MAY BE ON THE WAY BACK

ARGENTINA, returning to a more attacking style, completed the first year under coach Alfio Basile with a string of 14 unbeaten full internationals.

They won their first South American Championship for 34 years, and gained a much-talked-about 2-2 draw with England at Wembley.

Argentina, with stars such as defender Oscar Ruggeri — who took over as captain from the banned Diego Maradona and now has 62 caps — and Claudio Caniggia and Gabriel Batistuta in front, have numerous other players who have not yet reached their peak, and should continue to be a force.



Back on top . . . Batistuta (right) is one of the reasons for Argentina's rise.

Close

They deserve their top ranking this year, with only Brazil close and threatening to regain their former glory in their last two internationals at the end of 1991.

So much is always expected of Brazil that every time they play a poor game, their demise is being mentioned.

Their three meetings with Argentina in 1991 brought two draws and, in the South American Championship, a 3-2 defeat, a result instrumental in settling the title.

Brazil went through three managers last year, staring with Falcao — dismissed mainly for not winning the continental title — and significantly ending with Carlos Alberto Parreira, a former incumbent.

Under Parreira they had two internationals at home towards the end of the year, fielding a number of new men, and played some of the "Jogo Bonito" of old which made them so famous, beating Yugoslavia 3-1 and Czechoslovakia 2-1.

Brazilian fans had been in the habit of whistling their teams off the field after home internationals because they had been dissatisfied with their play. This time they cheered . . . which is the best indication that Brazil could be on the way back.

On top of that Brazil won both the under-17 and under-20 South American titles, going on to take the world vice-championship in the latter group.

South America's 10 countries played 58 matches in 1991, 26 within the South American Championship and six in Europe.

Uruguay, usually among the leaders, did not even reach the final round in Chile. While their leading players continue to emigrate, coach Luis Cubilla steadfastly refused to use European-based players.

Chile went close to realising their dream of winning the South American title for the first time, finding encouragement from the fact that their club champions, Colo Colo, had won Chile's first Libertadores Cup.

Campaign

Ecuador again showed up well under their much criticised Yugoslav coach, Drascovic, who has been re-engaged to lead their Olympic campaign.

This is likely to be a quiet year for South American teams at full international level and, as generally happens where there are no tournaments, some of them may not even see action. World Cup qualifying matches will not be played here until 1993.

RESULTS

All South American championship matches were in Chile. (n) denotes neutral venue.

JANUARY
Mexico 0, Colombia 0

FEBRUARY
Switzerland 3, Colombia 2 (n); Argentina 2, Hungary 0; Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

MARCH
Argentina 0, Mexico 0; Argentina 3 Brazil 3

APRIL
Mexico 1, Chile 0

MAY
Costa Rica 0, Uruguay 1 (n); Brazil 3, Bulgaria 0; Chile 2, Uruguay 1; US 1, Uruguay 0; US 0, Argentina 1; Ireland 1, Chile 1; Soviet Union 1, Argentina 1 (n); England 2, Argentina 2

JUNE
Peru 0, Ecuador 1; Peru 1, Uruguay 0; Bolivia 0, Paraguay 1; Paraguay 0, Bolivia 0; Ecuador 2, Chile 1; Uruguay 0, Peru 0; Costa Rica 0, Colombia 1 (n); Ecuador 2, Peru 2; Uruguay 1, Argentina 1; Chile 3, Ecuador 1; Sweden 2, Colombia 2

JULY *(all SA Championship)*
Chile 2, Venezuela 0; Paraguay 1, Peru 0; Colombia 1, Ecuador 0; Uruguay 1, Bolivia 1; Chile 4, Peru 2; Argentina 3, Venezuela 0; Uruguay 1, Ecuador 1; Brazil 2, Bolivia 1; Paraguay 5, Venezuela 0; Chile 0, Argentina 1; Colombia 0, Bolivia 0; Brazil 1, Uruguay 1; Peru 5, Venezuela 1; Argentina 4, Paraguay 1; Ecuador 4, Bolivia 0; Colombia 2, Brazil 0; Argentina 3, Peru 2; Chile 4, Paraguay 0; Chile 1, Colombia 1; Chile 0, Argentina 0; Brazil 2, Colombia 0; Uruguay 1, Colombia 0; Brazil 2, Ecuador 1; Argentina 3, Brazil 2; Chile 0, Brazil 2; Argentina 2, Colombia 1

AUGUST
Mexico 0, Uruguay 2

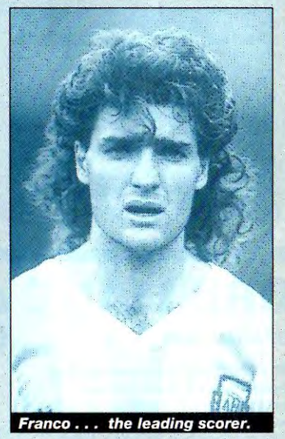
SEPTEMBER
Spain 2, Uruguay 1; Wales 1, Brazil 0

OCTOBER
Brazil 3, Yugoslavia 1

DECEMBER
Brazil 2, Czechoslovakia 1

LEADING SCORERS

6	Franco	(Argentina)
6	Batistuta	(Argentina)
6	Zamorano	(Chile)
5	De Avila	(Colombia)
5	Neto	(Brazil)
5	Rubio	(Chile)
4	Mendez	(Uruguay)
4	Hirano	(Peru)



Franco . . . the leading scorer.

SOUTH AMERICA INTERNATIONAL RECORDS — 1991

	Home						Away						Total					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	%
Argentina	14	1	2	0	5	3	7	4	0	21	10	8	6	0	26	13	78.5
Brazil	14	3	2	0	10	4	4	2	3	15	12	7	4	3	25	16	64.3
Paraguay	7	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	2	9	9	3	2	2	9	0	57.1
Chile	13	5	2	2	16	8	0	1	3	3	6	5	3	5	19	14	50.0
Ecuador	8	1	1	0	4	3	2	1	3	8	8	3	2	3	12	11	50.0
Uruguay	12	1	1	0	2	1	3	3	4	9	9	4	4	4	11	10	50.0
Colombia	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	10	11	3	4	4	10	11	45.5
Peru	8	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	11	11	2	2	4	12	12	37.5
Bolivia	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	7	0	3	3	2	8	25.0
Venezuela	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	15	0	0	4	1	15	00.0

ECUADOR

GAVICA STARS FOR THE CHAMPIONS

BY LESLIE **DICKENS**

A NEW manager and a new star helped Barcelona of Guayaquil to a record 11th championship since 1960, their third in six years.

They picked their way through a complicated format that public and media alike found hard to understand.

The system's early rounds produced a series of matches which were there merely to fill up the season.

Once again it's the same old story, where quality is sacrificed in place of quantity.

In the end Barcelona came out as the clear champions, losing only one game at home.

Football in Ecuador is played in two climates. The coastal region's temperatures climb up to around 34°C, but games in the capital, Quito, are at an altitude of 3,400 metres. It's not easy being consistent under these geographical and climatical conditions, but Barcelona brushed these hurdles aside and their football flowed.

Their four-year-old stadium is a place where visiting teams feel the heat of both sun and supporters. I'm sure that soon a sign will be placed at the end of the tunnel saying "This is the Monumental".

In four years Barcelona have achieved magnificent results in their new stadium: two championships and the final of the Libertadores Cup. They will continue to dominate Ecuadorian football during the next few years.

Jose Gavica was voted Player of the Year, and is the best player to emerge for years. This 23-year-old has skill, speed and scoring ability.

The Libertadores Cup will be Gavica's chance to show the rest of South America what he is made of.

At one stage during the championship everyone thought that an era had ended when Barcelona released their Argentine manager, Miguel Brindisi, who travelled to Spain to take over Las Palmas.

His compatriot, Jorge Habegger, took over where Brindisi had left off. Their football is attractive to watch. It's not the kind that has you on the edge of your seat, but a slow build-up usually quickens when the ball reaches Gavica or Carlos Munoz.

Ruben Insua finished as Bacelona's top striker with 17 goals. Lethal free-kicks have become his hallmark.

Valdez Sporting Club, formerly Filanbanco, join Barcelona in the Libertadores Cup, after only one season under their new name. Barcelona topped the final play-off with 10 points from six games, and Valdez beat El Nacional 2-1 in a play-off after they had finished equal second.

Ecuador's two representatives will play the Venezuelan champions Universidad de los Andes and the vice-champions Maritimo, in the first round of the Libertadores Cup. Although nothing is certain in football, Barcelona are clear favourites to go through to the next round.

Jose Gavica (left), Barcelona's new star in action against Valdez.

COLOMBIA

HERNAN'S STYLE PAYS FOR ATLETICO

BY KEITH **SMITH**

Nacional from Medellin are Colombian champions for the first time in a decade.

The 1990 champions, America Cali, finished second (qualifying for the 1991 Libertadores Cup) with Junior Barranquilla third and Santa Fe from Bogota fourth.

Nacional's victory was a triumph for coach Hernan Darío Gomez and for the system that he has faithfully continued from his former boss, Francisco Maturana.

During the season the club lost four internationals (Rene Higuita, Leonel Alvarez, Luis Carlos Perea and Gilardo Gomez) but still had 13 on hand to implement the short-passing game.

Two key players however were non-international forwards Faustino Asprilla and Victor Aristazabal.

Trellez . . . stuck on the sidelines.

The development of both towards the end of the season — Asprilla is 22, Aristazabal 20 — gave Nacional a more consistent scoring edge to complement a solid back four and an experienced midfield.

Their progress left more experienced forwards Ruben Hernandez and Trellez (back from Switzerland) on the sidelines.

Nacional have only one player left from the 1981 title-winning side — Gabriel Gomez, re-signed at the start of 1991. He is the younger brother of Hernan Dario Gomez. To round off a good year the elder Gomez was appointed coach to the Colombian Olympic side.

Nacional's neighbours, Envigado, will be Colombia's 16th professional team in 1992, having won promotion from Division B. Envigado, better known as the site of the prison holding drug boss Pablo Escobar, were able to draw on the available pool of young talent in the Medellin area.

Most of these players have had some experience at professional level, and the side were eventually worthy winners of a competition that produced barely a goal per game in its first season

Three coaches lost their jobs. Eduardo Retat was pushed out by Millonarios after his team failed to qualify for the final stage of the season, and Medellin's Jaime Rodriguez was sacked for his side's failure at the same stage.

Then Julio Comesana, the Uruguayan at Junior Barranquilla, did not have his contract renewed.

Third place was not good enough.

OTHER MEN IN THE NEWS

OSCAR RUGGERI, the Argentine national team captain, was chosen by the Argentine Sports Journalists Club in its annual poll not only as top player of 1991, but also as top sportsman of the year.

ADRIAN CZORNOMAZ, Argentine forward, was transferred by San Lorenzo (Argentina) to Rapid Vienna (Austria) for 400,000 dollars, while NESTOR GORROSITO returned from Austria (Tirol) and would like to play for his old club, San Lorenzo, again.

JUAN JOSE BORRELLI, River Plate (Argentina) and international midfielder, 21, was transferred to Panathinaikos (Greece) for 2.5 million dollars mainly to pay back taxes (although soccer player agent Settimo Aloisio owned half the contract and collected half the transfer fee).

ROBERTO FALCAO, former Brazilian international midfielder and recently national team coach, signed an 18-months contract to coach America of Mexico City.

JUNIOR (Leovelgildo Lins Gama), who will be 39 next month, but is still playing outstanding games for Flamengo, announced that he was going to retire at the end of the year (1991). Junior has 81 caps for Brazil whom he represented in two World Cups (1982 and 1986) while he won five Rio league titles, three Brazilian championships, the Libertadores and Intercontinental Cups with Flamengo. He also played in Italy for Torino and Pescara.

BRAZIL

BRILLIANT JUNIOR SETTLES TITLE

BY ADAM **REID**

FLAMENGO, inspired by the brilliance of their former international midfielder Junior, won the Rio de Janeiro championship to take their first major title since 1987.

A 4-2 win over Fluminense in the decisive match brought Flamengo the title and fittingly it was Junior who scored the final goal.

Ezio had given Fluminense a first half lead but Flamengo destroyed Edinho's side in the second half with goals by Uidemar, Gaucho, Zinho and finally the great man himself. Ezio (again) scored Fluminense's consolation.

Junior, who played in the 1982 World Cup, was at his magnificent best throughout the competition and looks as if could keep playing for several years.

Once again, the format of the competition had the fans scratching their heads. After all the confusion over whether we would have a two or three team set-up, the final would be won by the first team to reach four points with Flamengo starting with a one point advantage as a reward for scoring more points over stages one and two of the competition.

The first game drew a disappointing crowd of 43,000 mainly because it would not decide the championship.

Although Flamengo had most of the play, the match ended 1-1 with goals by Ezio from a 22nd minute penalty and Paulo Nunes in the 24th minute. Flamengo dominated the second half and Gaucho brought several saves out of Fluminense 'keeper Ricardo Pinto.

Therefore Flamengo went into the second match with two points against Fluminense's one. A win would give Flamengo the championship there and then, any other result would have meant a third game. Flamengo, however, wrapped it up with their 4-2 win much to the surprise, it seems, of their own fans. Only 50,000 were present, the rest appearing to believe in the possibility of a third game.

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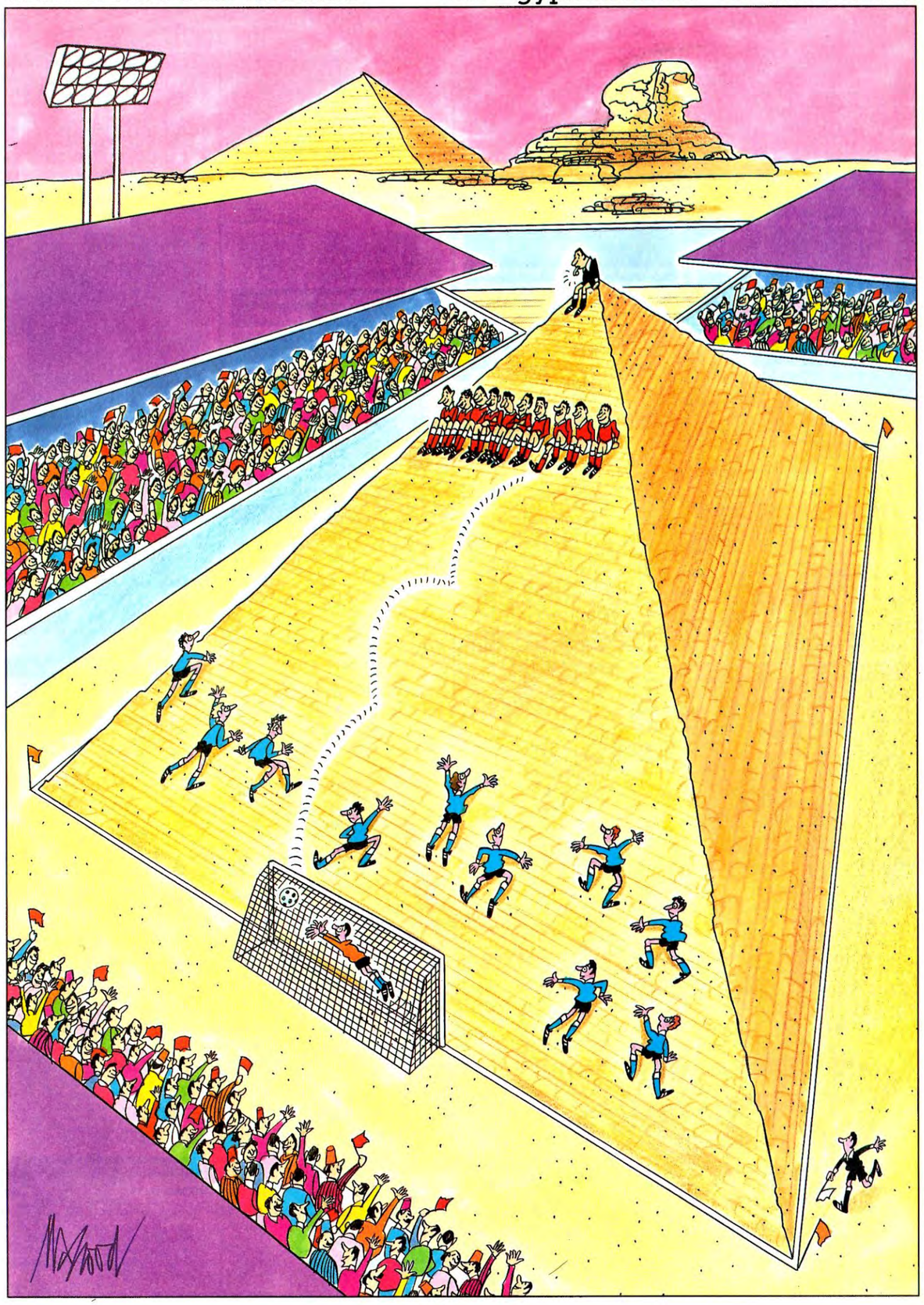
The Egyptian Home Ground Gambit



diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by
KEIR RADNEDGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

ACTION: *Both top two — Marseille and Monaco — are held goalless away by (respectively) Metz and Rennes . . . Borussia Dortmund win 1-0 away to Werder Bremen to edge ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt (1-1 v Schalke) at the top of the German table. Bayern Munich go down 2-1 to Hansa Rostock.*

UNITED STATES: *FIFA's executive committee, meeting ahead of the World Cup draw, decides: to admit Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia to provisional membership; to reject membership applications from Croatia, Georgia and Ukraine; to recommend statute changes proscribing government control over national associations; to uphold the World Cup ban on Chile; to lift the home match suspensions of Kuwait and Lebanon; to allow Iraq to play matches outside their own country; to confirm the international suspension on Brazilian club Flamengo; to permit the Asian confederation to organise a four-team tournament featuring the regional champion nations of Africa, Asia, South America and CONCACAF; to confirm the seating-only order on all future World Cup matches; to delay announcement of the 1991 FIFA Fair Play winner; to award hosting rights for the 1998 World Cup finals on July 1 in Zurich.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

ACTION: *Red Star Belgrade win the World Club Cup, beating Colo Colo 3-0 in Tokyo despite the expulsion of star forward Dejan Savicevic . . . Italian title chasers Juventus beat Inter 2-1 with goals from Baggio and Galia . . . chasers Atletico Madrid lose 3-2 to Bilbao in Spain. Real Madrid move six points clear thanks to a 4-1 win over John Toshack's Real Sociedad.*

BELGIUM: *FC Liege appoint Eric Gerets, currently still playing with PSV Eindhoven, as coach for next season . . . minor panic engulfs FC Eendracht Aalst with reports that Zambian player Webster Chikabala has tested HIV-positive.*

ENGLAND: *Sir John Quinton, chairman of Barclays Bank, is appointed unpaid non-executive chairman of the new Premier League. He was Olympic Appeal Fund chairman in 1988 and was appointed unanimously despite earlier speculation that the post would be offered to Sir John Harvey-Jones, former head of ICI.*

UNITED STATES: *The World Cup qualifying draw takes place in Madison Square Garden, New York — the first time in modern soccer history that it has taken place outside Switzerland.*

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

MANCHESTER UTD . . .

for knocking Leeds out of both FA and Rumbelows (League) Cups and holding out for a draw in the league — all at Elland Road — to underline their credentials to win the championship for the first time in 25 years.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

ENGLAND: *National manager Graham Taylor flies home from New York publicly wondering how all the qualifying matches of the 1996 World Cup qualifiers can be accommodated in the busy domestic club schedule.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

ACTION: *In the UEFA Cup third round, Sigma Olomouc thrash Hamburg 4-1 to win 6-2 on aggregate.*

GERMANY: *Police say they have uncovered an illegal betting scheme involving Bundesliga matches and players and officials of Schalke and Wattenscheid.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

ACTION: *In the Champions' Cup semi-final groups, Panathinaikos are held goalless at home by Sampdoria and Benfica are held goalless by Barcelona; Sparta Prague beat Kiev 2-1 . . . the UEFA Cup third round second leg ties see aggregate victories for Ajax, Genoa, Liverpool (with a Dean Saunders hat-trick against FC Tirol), Gent, Torino and B1903 Copenhagen.*

BRAZIL: *Flamengo beat Botofogo 1-0 to qualify for the Carioca (Rio state) championship final against Fluminense.*

FRANCE: *Controversial Nimes striker Eric Cantona has a four-match ban doubled to two months after he swears at the disciplinary commission. Cantona had appeared after being sent off for throwing the ball at the referee during Saturday's match against Saint-Etienne.*

ITALY: *Milan are held 1-1 at home by Verona in a third round second leg cup tie but qualify on away goals for the quarter-finals (3-3 aggregate). Milan will play Torino . . . statutory suspensions are imposed on David Platt (Bari), Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina) and Glenn Peter Stromberg (Atalanta).*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

ACTION: *In the Champions' Cup, Red Star return from Tokyo as world champions to beat Anderlecht "only" 3-2 in Budapest after Anderlecht lead 2-1 . . . in the UEFA Cup, Real Madrid qualify for the quarter-finals after beating Xamax Neuchatel 4-0.*

FRANCE: *Eric Cantona says he is quitting soccer in the wake of his two-month suspension. National manager Michel Platini says: "That's bad news. He should take some time to think things over." Nimes president Michel Mezy says his club will appeal against the length of the suspension.*

GERMANY: *Hamburg, an admitted £4million in debt last summer, launch a public shares issue hoping to raise £14million . . . Bayern midfielder Stefan Effenberg is dropped from the national squad by Berti Vogts just a week after being dropped by his club for an interview in which he criticised club officials Franz Beckenbauer, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Uli Hoeness and Soren Lerby.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

DENMARK: *Denmark approach Wales about a February 19 friendly after cancelling plans to play the Irish Republic now they have been drawn in the same World Cup qualifying group.*

GERMANY: *Borussia Dortmund confirm their table-topping form with a 4-1 victory over Hansa Rostock. Michael Rummenigge scores twice.*

SOVIET UNION: *A plenum of the Ukraine federation decides to withdraw from the Soviet championship but confirms that its players will be allowed, even encouraged, to play for the Soviet Union at the European Championship finals. Ukraine will run a short championship in the spring and then switch to a western-European-style autumn-spring season. The six clubs withdrawn from the Soviet first division are Kiev, Chernomorets Odessa, Dnepr, Shakhtyor Donetsk, Metallurg Zaporozhe and Metallist Kharkov.*

SWEDEN: *UEFA's Swedish president, Lennart Johansson, says he hopes the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will still be able to compete in the European Championship finals.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

ACTION: *River Plate win 1-0 away to Platense and stay six points clear of Boca Juniors in Argentina . . . Marseille skipper Jean-Pierre Papin scores a hat-trick in the 5-1 beating of Rennes . . . Borussia Dortmund are confirmed as halfway leaders in Germany; Eintracht Frankfurt remain second after beating Dresden 3-0 . . . Dutch leaders PSV retain their unbeaten record by defeating Fortuna Sittard 1-0 with a goal from Kieft . . . Dinamo Bucharest draw 1-1 away to Corvinul Hunedoara but remain seven points clear of Petrolol Ploesti in Romania . . . Atletico Madrid crash to a shock 3-0 home defeat against Sevilla; Chilean Ivano Zamorano scores two.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

ACTION: *Flamengo and Fluminense draw 1-1 in the first leg of the Carioca (Rio state championship) final . . . Sao Paulo win the Paulista championship 3-0 on aggregate after drawing 0-0 at home to local rivals Corinthians in the second leg of their state final . . . Feyenoord beat Sparta 2-0 in the Rotterdam derby . . . Juventus lose 1-0 to champions Sampdoria so Milan extend their lead in Italy to two points . . . a late goal from Alfonso brings Real Madrid a 1-1 draw away to Zaragoza and stretches their Spanish league lead to seven points over neighbours Atletico.*

HOLLAND: *Feyenoord's Romanian midfielder Ioan Sabau is reportedly considering an offer from Arsenal after the Dutch club put him on the transfer list — unable to come up with the cash promised by the club's previous management.*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

GUNNAR NORDAHL . . .

Olympic Games-winning centre forward with Sweden in 1948 then top-scoring hero with Milan in the early 1950s as a member of the Grenoli trio (with Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm). Now a successful businessman back in his native Sweden.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

ENGLAND: *Czechoslovak international defender Ivo Stas quits Aston Villa after 13 months in which an achilles tendon injury has prevented him playing a single first-team game. A string of specialists tell Villa Stas could not withstand the rigours of an English first division season.*

FRANCE: *Eric Cantona tells Nimes directors, face to face, that he breaking his contract and quitting soccer. He does, however, sign a clause binding him to Nimes should he change his mind . . . Nantes sign Johnny Molby, Denmark midfielder and cousin of Liverpool's Jan Molby, from Vejle.*

ITALY: *Arrigo Sacchi names five newcomers in his Italy squad to play Cyprus in their final European qualifiers. The five are Milan's Demetrio Albertini and Alberigo Evani, Inter's Dino Baggio and Alessandro Bianchi and Juventus' Massimo Carrera.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA call off Wednesday's European qualifying tie between Albania and Spain because of the local political turmoil in the Balkan state. Both this match and the corresponding under-21 tie are expected to be cancelled.*

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:

MARCO VAN BASTEN . . .

for displaying consistently the finest form of his career, a hat-trick for Milan against Foggia establishing him as 13-goal leading scorer in Italy.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

ACTION: *Germany beat Luxembourg 3-0 in a European under-21 tie.*

BELGIUM: *Aad de Mos signs a two-year coaching contract extension with Anderlecht.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Genoa's Tomas Skuhravy is voted Footballer of the Year.*

FRANCE: *Brazil centre back Carlos Mozer is sent off as Marseille draw 0-0 away to Paris Saint-Germain.*

GERMANY: *Hermann Neuberger, president of the DFB, confirms that he has proposed to UEFA that the European Championship finals be expanded to 16 teams in 1996 because of the likely membership expansion of UEFA.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA put Italy and Denmark on standby in case the Soviet Union and/or Yugoslavia are unable to play at the European Championship finals. The draw for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup is: Torino v B1903, Sigma Olomouc v Real Madrid, Genoa v Liverpool, Gent v Ajax. The draw for the quarter-finals of the European under-21 championship is: Denmark v Poland, Holland v Sweden, Germany v Scotland, Czechoslovakia v Italy. The semi-final draw is: Denmark or Poland v Czechoslovakia or Italy, Germany or Scotland v Holland or Sweden.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Milan officials say they expect Red Star's Dejan Savicevic to sign a contract transfer option later this week. The fee is £4million. Savicevic would move to Italy in the summer.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

ACTION: *Germany secure their place in the European finals by defeating Luxembourg 4-0 in Leverkusen . . . Brazil beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 in Goiana . . . Greece beat Cyprus 2-0 in an academic under-21 qualifier (Sweden already have the group sewn up) . . . Spain's Olympic team lose 1-0 at home in Castellon de la Plana to England B.*

CHILE: *Colo Colo secure a third successive championship thanks to a goalless draw away to Coquimba amid tight security.*

PERU: *Sporting Cristal win the championship, beating Universitario 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the title play-off.*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica beat FC Porto 2-1 in Lisbon in the first leg of the Supercup.*

SPAIN: *Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil is suspended and charged with inciting fans to violence in the wake of Saturday's 3-0 home defeat by Sevilla when referee Jose Merino needed medical treatment after an angry home fan threw a cup of beer in his face. Atletico are fined £3,000 and ordered to play their next home match (coincidentally against Real Madrid) away from their Estadio Calderon.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA, still trying to fuddle the rules, support a one-on-one shoot-out, similar to the system used to FIFA's displeasure in the NASL, for a junior event in Zurich next year . . . the draw for the European under-18 and under-16 youth tournaments takes place in Geneva. The 1993 under-16 finals will be staged in Turkey, the 1992 under-18 finals in England.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

ACTION: *Kuwait's Olympic team lose 2-0 to a World XI in a friendly in Perugia which is staged to publicise the fact that thousands of Kuwaitis remain prisoners in Iraq.*

BRAZIL: *Flamengo win the Rio state championship after beating Fluminense 4-2 in the play-off second leg.*

GERMANY: *Berti Vogts rules Thomas Berthold, suspended for five UEFA competitive matches after his expulsion in Wales, out of his European Championship plans.*

ITALY: *Nicola Berti threatens to walk out on Inter if coach Orrico is dismissed. Berti says: "He is another Sacchi and next year we'll win the league."*

SOVIET UNION: *Player power takes over at Moscow Torpedo, with the dismissal of coach Valentin Ivanov and his replacement by Yevgeni Skomoronkov.*

SPAIN: *Atletico will play Real, after all, in the Estadio Calderon on January 4. They make sure of that by appealing against the stadium suspension knowing that the case cannot be considered now until after the Christmas and new year holiday . . . an amateur player in the regional league is sent off for trying to kiss the woman referee, Maria de los Angeles Garcia.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

ARGENTINA: *Oscar Ruggeri is voted Sportsman of the Year.*

AUSTRIA: *Tirol's veteran coach, Ernst Happel, agrees to take over as national team manager for the World Cup qualifiers.*

ENGLAND: *Arsenal's Iceland midfielder, Siggi Jonsson, is considered unlikely to play again because of a back injury. Jonsson, once rated Iceland's finest-ever prospect, is still only 25.*

OBITUARY

JUAN GILBERTO FUNES, former star forward of River Plate, dies in Buenos Aires aged 28 after major heart surgery. Funes exploded onto the scene with the goals which helped River win the South American club cup in 1986. Born in Mendoza, at the foot of the Andes, he later played in Greece, then back home with Velez Sarsfield. It was in 1990, when he was about to sign for Nice, that French doctors discovered a serious heart condition which forced his premature retirement.

MICK LEACH, former Queen's Park Rangers forward, dies after a long illness aged 42.

HEINZ BONN, former West German B international and Hamburg player in the early 1970s, is found dead at his home in Hannover. He also played for Wuppertal and Arminia Bielefeld but had later become an alcoholic.

RONNIE STARLING, former England international star who captained Sheffield Wednesady when they won the F.A. Cup in 1935, dies aged 82. Starling also played in semi-final teams with Hull (1930), Newcastle (1932) and Aston Villa (1938).

FRANCE: *Alen Boksic, Marseille's summer signing from Hajduk Split, finally obtains permission to make his French league debut on loan to Cannes.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

ACTION: *Italy beat Cyprus 2-0 with goals from Baggio and Vialli to finish runners-up to the Soviet Union in European Championship group three.*

SWITZERLAND: *The federation and Xamax Neuchatel announce an impending direct swap of coaches. National boss Uli Stielike will return to Xamax in place of Englishman Roy Hodgson, who takes over the national team.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

ACTION: *Malta draw 1-1 with Greece in the last match of the 1992 European Championship qualifiers . . . FC Porto draw 0-0 with local rivals Boavista, so Porto keeper Vitor Baia sets a domestic 1,079-minute unbeaten record.*

FRANCE: *Marseille's Jean-Pierre Papin is voted European Footballer of the Year by the Paris magazine, France Football. Papin polls 141 points ahead of three joint runners-up, Lothar Matthaus, Darko Pancev and Dejan Savicevic (all 42 points). In fourth place is another Yugoslav, Robert Prosinecki (41). Other top ten placings: 6, Lineker 33; 7, Vialli 18; 8, Belodedic 15; 9, Hughes 13; 10, Waddle 11.*

SOCCER ON T.V.

SKY SPORTS

SATURDAY 1 JANUARY
09.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP: Highlights of the week's best League game in Europe plus goals and results from all the major leagues.
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
13.00 WORLD INDOOR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP: Six-a-side highlights from Birmingham.

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY
13.00 WORLD INDOOR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP: Part 2 of highlights from Birmingham.
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of the day's games.
22.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games in the Premier League.

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
12.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: See 19.00.
14.00 WORLD INDOOR SOCCER
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: The weekly magazine.

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY
14.00 WORLD INDOOR SOCCER
19.30 SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAY — LIVE
22.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW: With Richard Keys.

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY
07.00 SCOTTISH CUP REPLAY: Last night's game in full.
10.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
12.30 SCOTTISH CUP REPLAY: See 07.00.
19.00 FA CUP FOURTH ROUND REPLAY — LIVE
21.30 FA CUP CLASSIC: ARSENAL v IPSWICH, 1978.
02.00 FA CUP 4TH ROUND REPLAY: See 19.00.

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY
07.00 FA CUP REPLAY: Last night's in full.
12.30 FA CUP REPLAY: See 07.00.
14.30 NETBUSTERS: Goal after goal from around the continent.
23.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP: Highlights of the week.

FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY
10.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP: Highlights of the week.
19.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the match of the day.
22.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND; Evening update.
02.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: See 18.00.

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
12.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the day's games.
22.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games.

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL; Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
12.30 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
14.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine.

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY
19.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine
21.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
01.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine
12.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
19.30 SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH ROUND — LIVE: Pick of the week's ties.
22.00 SKY SOCCER CLASSIC: ARSENAL v MANCHESTER UNITED FA Cup Final, 1979.
24.30 SCOTTISH CUP: See 19.30.

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY
07.00 SCOTTISH CUP; Last night's tie in full.
12.30 SCOTTISH CUP 4TH ROUND: See 07.00.
14.30 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY
19.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND21.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the match of the day.
23.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Evening update.
24.30 GERMAN FOOTBALL: See 21.00.

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
13.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: Coverage of one of yesterday's matches.
18.00 FA CUP FIFTH ROUND SPECIAL
24.00 FA CUP SPECIAL

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY
09.00 FA CUP SPECIAL
12.30 FA CUP SPECIAL: See 09.00.
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of the day's games.
22.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games.

MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL; Highlights from the weekend.
12.30 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the best of yesterday's fixtures.
14.30 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Highlights from the weekend.
17.00 NETBUSTERS
20.00 FA CUP SPECIAL
22.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine.

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY
07.00 FA CUP SPECIAL
12.30 FA CUP SPECIAL
19.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine.
21.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
01.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: Weekly magazine.
12.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
19.00 NETBUSTERS
19.30 LIVE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: ENGLAND v FRANCE and SCOTLAND v NORTHERN IRELAND.
23.00 FA CUP CLASSIC: MANCHESTER CITY v SPURS FA Cup Final, 1981.

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY
07.00 ENGLAND v FRANCE
12.30 SCOTLAND v NORTHERN IRELAND
14.30 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY
07.00 SCOTLAND v NORTHERN IRELAND
12.30 ENGLAND v FRANCE
14.30 NETBUSTERS
18.00 EUROPEAN ROUND-UP
19.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.00 GERMAN FOOTBALL: Full coverage of the match of the day.

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL
22.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL
01.30 ITALIAN FOOTBALL

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY
07.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL
09.00 SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: Weekend's best games in the Premier League.
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL: The weekly magazine.

SCREENSPORT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
21.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona, Albacete v Atletico Madrid.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
14.30 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Paraguay v Venezuela, Brazil v Peru. All other South American matches being screened are in this tournament.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
05.00 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER: Brazil v Peru
14.30 Uruguay v Ecuador
15.30 Argentina v Bolivia

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
14.30 Argentina v Bolivia
15.30 Paraguay v Venezuela
19.30 PRE-OLYMPIC SOCCER TOURNAMENT: Peru v Colombia
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
10.00 ARGENTINA v BOLIVIA
14.30 PERU v COLOMBIA
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
19.30 BRAZIL v PARAGUAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
10.00 PERU v COLOMBIA
14.30 BRAZIL v PARAGUAY
15.30 URUGUAY v ECUADOR
19.30 URUGUAY v CHILE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
10.00 BRAZIL v PARAGUAY
14.30 URUGUAY v CHILE
19.30 ARGENTINA v ECUADOR
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
10.00 URUGUAY v CHILE
14.30 ARGENTINA v ECUADOR
19.30 PERU v VENEZUELA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
10.00 ARGENTINA v ECUADOR
18.30 BRAZIL v COLOMBIA
19.30 ECUADOR v BOLIVIA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
08.00 BRAZIL v COLOMBIA
09.00 ECUADOR v BOLIVIA
19.30 ARGENTINA v CHILE
20.30 COLOMBIA v VENEZUELA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10.00 BRAZIL v COLOMBIA
14.30 ARGENTINA v CHILE
15.30 COLOMBIA v VENEZUELA
19.30 PARAGUAY v PERU
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
10.00 ARGENTINA v CHILE
14.30 PARAGUAY v PERU
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
19.30 URUGUAY v BOLIVIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL
10.00 PARAGUAY v PERU
14.30 URUGUAY v BOLIVIA
19.30 CHILE v ECUADOR
20.30 PARAGUAY v COLOMBIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
10.00 URUGUAY v BOLIVIA
14.30 CHILE v ECUADOR
15.30 PARAGUAY v COLOMBIA
19.30 BRAZIL v VENEZUELA
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Zaragoza v Barcelona and R. Madrid v At. Bilbao.
00.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
10.00 CHILE v ECUADOR14.30, BRAZIL v VENEZUELA
19.30 CHILE v BOLIVIA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
14.30 CHILE v BOLIVIA
19.30 ARGENTINA v URUGUAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
05.30 ARGENTINA v URUGUAY

FOCUS ON CHRISTCHURCH UNITED

BY PAUL **MOON**

Kings of the Kiwis

WHEN officials from four prominent Christchurch clubs met in 1968 to form a composite team to represent the city in New Zealand's national league, to be inaugurated a year later, there was every reason to believe the new outfit would become a major force in the competition.

Rangers, Christchurch City, Sharmrock and Technical had featured in finals of the Chatham Cup — then New Zealand's only nationwide club tournament — on ten occasions, although only one victory had been achieved, by Technical in 1948.

None, however, had the financial resources or personnel to contemplate joining the league on their own.

Backbone

So, financed by the four clubs and a substantial number of individual shareholders, Christchurch United duly took their place among the National League's eight founder members in 1970 (the kick-off having been delayed by a year) but could only finish third.

Christchurch City provided the greatest input of personnel, with the backbone of the team, most key administrators and coach Gwyn Evans. After appearing for Crystal Palace in England, Evans moved to City as player-coach during the late 1950s and gained many honours with them at provincial and regional league levels.

The Welshman was attached to United for only one year before resigning and moving into administration, later serving the New Zealand FA for several years as secretary.

His son, Ceri, has been a cornerstone of the New Zealand national team's defence for a decade and now plays in England with Oxford United.

Terry Conley, who replaced Evans as coach, had been an amateur with Bolton Wanderers and a part-time professional at Darwen. He was a member of the Canterbury side in the late '60s before turning to coaching.

Under him, United quickly evolved into the most formidable combination in New Zealand soccer history.

The 1972 Chatham Cup Final gave United their first major honour and sowed the seeds for what is now a fierce rivalry with Auckland club Mount Wellington.

Christchurch won the second replay 2-1, after the earlier games had produced ten goals.

That 1972 combination reflected the well-balanced blend of top locally-produced talent complemented by recruits from the lower regions of British soccer.

Home . . . the Queen Elizabeth II Park, venue for the 1974 Commonwealth Games.

Captain Ken France had been an England youth international while on Blackburn's books, influential linkman Tom Randles had been at Stoke City, midfielder Brian Hardman came to United from Rochdale, and both full-backs, Lawrie Blyth and Ian Park, had been with Preston North End.

Former Northern Ireland international Peter Doherty acted as United's agent in England and was responsible for the stream of players who kept United at the top throughout the rest of the '70s.

Doherty's acquisitions included Phil Dando (ex Barrow), Roy Drinkwater (Stockport County), Kevin Moran (Fleetwood), Kevin Mulgrew (Whitby Town), Bobby Almond (Walthamstow Avenue) and Steve Sumner (Preston).

Locally-bred players Graham Griffiths, Alan Marley and Graham Dacombe are all remembered with affection by United fans of that era, but their favourite son was Vic Pollard.

He was an illustrious cricketer, scoring two Test centuries against England in 1973, as well as an elegantly creative linkman, but was prematurely lost to soccer when his Christian principles prevented him from playing on a Sunday — the day nearly all National League games were staged.

United won the League in 1973 (conceding only 11 goals), '75 and '78, while a hat-trick of Chatham Cups was achieved between 1974 and 1976.

A 2-2 draw with the touring England B team in 1978 extended United's fame. But few who saw that brave performance could have believed a long, barren period was about to begin.

Soon after celebrating their third League triumph, United lost several key players, including Dando and Drinkwater to Newcastle K.B. United in the newly formed Australian National League. More crucially, they lost Conley, who went to Blockhouse Bay.

The Rams finished second to Mount Wellington in 1979 and slumped to seventh a year later, when Conley returned after his unproductive stay in the north. But hopes of quickly righting the ship were shattered during a dramatic weekend in Gisborne.

Banished

He was always a strict disciplinarian, and responded to five players breaking a team curfew on the eve of a game by immediately suspending them all. United, unable to obtain enough replacements, fielded nine men against Gisborne City. All five curfew-breakers were later banished from the club.

Problems also existed off the pitch at that time.

When formed, United were akin to a house without a foundation, little more than a group of individuals who met on training nights and match days.

Rangers, City, Technical and Shamrock continued to operate as separate entities and each of United's executive committee members had divided loyalties.

In 1972, however, United took over City lock, stock and barrel, inheriting their junior teams and club rooms. From then on, their administration had only United's interests at heart and functioned very efficiently until the late 1970s, when complacency set in and a series of bad decisions were made, many concerning finance.

Shortage of cash and stricter immigration laws cut down the quantity of British imports.

Northern Ireland international Bryan Hamilton, in the twilight of his career, was the best known of the recruits who made minimal impact.

Financial problems also resulted in many locally-born players leaving. There were no United men in the New Zealand squad at the 1982 World Cup finals, but five members of the party previously had been with the club.

In 1985 United had their worst-ever placing, ninth, but two developments transformed the club soon afterwards.

Firstly, their administration was overhauled with new blood introduced into virtually every office.

One of the new committee's first acts was to appoint Ian Marshall as coach. Marshall had achieved great success at regional league level and soon proved himself equally capable at the highest domestic level.

United's subsequent revival must be regarded as nothing short of astonishing. Off the pitch, their debts have been eliminated, and on it a second golden era has been entered.

Under Marshall, United claimed the League in 1987 and 1988 plus the Chatham Cup in 1989, after being beaten in the two previous finals, just as "the double" appeared to theirs.

When Marshall was promoted to New Zealand national coach at the end of the 1989 season, most doubted if his successor, fellow Scot Martin Stewart, could maintain the momentum.

Stewart confounded his detractors by guiding United to the League and Cup double which had eluded Marshall — a feat enabling United to eclipse Mount Wellington as New Zealand's most successful club.

Although "The Mount" also have won the League six times, United's total of six Cup triumphs is one better.

The duo are the only survivors among the National League's original eight from 1970.

Since then, three other Christchurch clubs have featured in the competition. All three failed after incurring heavy debts, thereby proving that New Zealand's third largest city can support only one National League club, just as United's founders predicted.

The whole of the Garden City's soccer fraternity is now united behind The Rams but, sadly, this is not reflected in attendances at the 30,000-capacity Queen Elizabeth II Park, where the 1974 Commonwealth Games were staged.

EDGE INJURY MARS WINFIELD FINAL

THE thin line between triumph and despair was again vividly illustrated during New Zealand's Winfield Inter-Provincial Championship Final.

When Declan Edge scored his second goal in the 84th minute, to put Bay of Plenty 2-1 ahead of Hawke's Bay, it appeared that he had capped a superb display with the winner.

But Martin Akers headed an equaliser well into injury time, his second goal of the afternoon, and after eight minutes of extra time Edge suffered a double ankle fracture that probably will keep him out for the whole of next season.

Play was held up for over half an hour while Edge, the former Notts County professional and current New Zealand national team squad member, received treatment before being transferred to hospital.

The injury resulted from a perfectly legal tackle on the edge of the penalty area.

Not surprisingly the accident upset both teams, who merely went through the motions before the competition had to be decided by penalties.

Three saves by 16-year-old Peter Butler gave Hawke's Bay the trophy.

Out . . . Edge (right) will miss next season with a double ankle fracture.

AUSTRALIA:

THE OLYMPIC team ended their Oceania qualifying tournament campaign with a 100 per cent record.

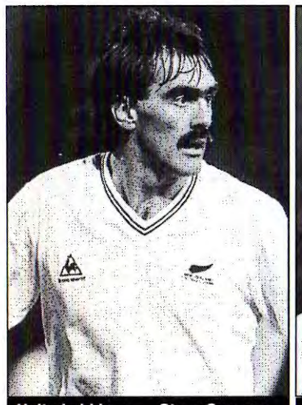
Only once did the young Aussies look vulnerable against a ten-man New Zealand in neutral Fiji.

They were a goal down midway through the second half but an own goal by Vaughan Coveny and a last-minute goal from the potent David Seal swung the game around for them.

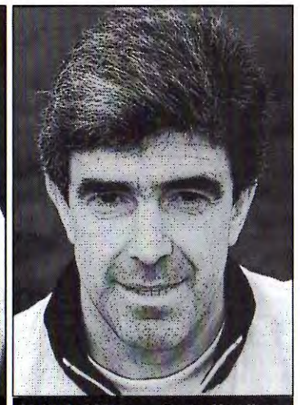
Kiwi frustration was compounded by their belief that midfielder Julyan Bowden had been sent off as the result of mistaken identity (they claimed the referee confused Bowden with another player, who had been booked earlier) and resentment over the fixture being switched to Fiji for financial reasons.

But even if New Zealand had won it would have meant little in the long run.

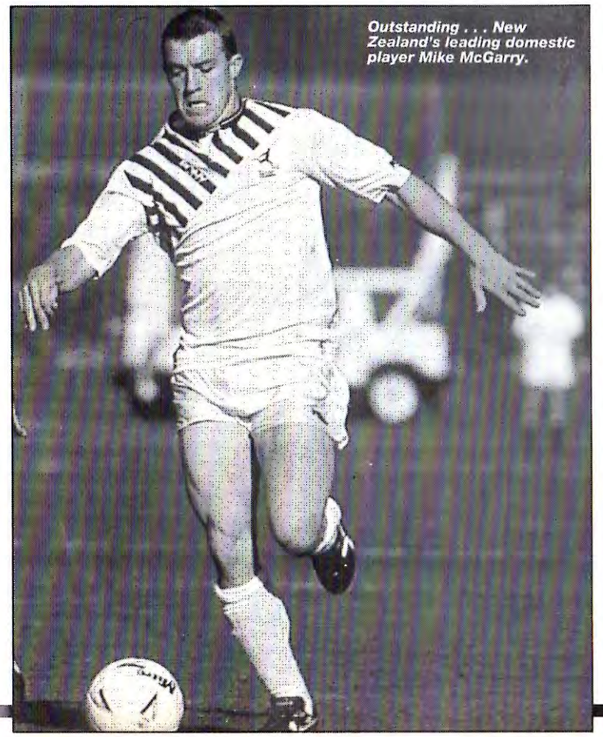
They subsequently dropped another point against Fiji and finished with a much inferior goal difference to the Australians, who will now play off with a European team for a place in the Olympic finals.



United old boy . . . Steve Sumner.



United old boy . . . Bryan Hamilton.



Outstanding . . . New Zealand's leading domestic player Mike McGarry.

THE COACH

Martin STEWART.
A moderate player at junior level in his native Scotland, recruited to coach New Brighton, then Christchurch's second National League club, in 1975. Subsequently joined Nomads United, where he gained much prestige but no honours. Was assistant to Ian Marshall at United from 1987 to 1990, then promoted. Long acknowledged as an astute tactician, but thought by many to lack motivating skills — until this season.

THE PLAYERS

Alan STROUD.
Goalkeeper,
Scottish born but raised in New Zealand. Formerly a striker, he switched to his current position when a teenager and played for Dunedin City before moving to United in 1985. Drafted into the New Zealand national squad a couple of years ago, but failed to keep a regular place.

Laurence FITZPATRICK.
Full-back.
A member of the Waikato United team who defeated The Rams in the 1988 Chatham Cup Final. Then moved south to study at Christchurch University, and joined United. An ever-improving full back, 1991 Pepsi Young Player of the Year and captain of New Zealand's Olympic selection.

Kevin CALDER.
Full-back.
A product of one of United's original feeder clubs, Shamrock, and moved up to national league soccer upon joining United in 1985. Among the most dependable left-backs in New Zealand.

Michael BOOMER.
Defender.
Came through the junior ranks at Dunedin Technical before moving to United via Southern Regional League club Burndale United in 1988. Ended his first season as a National League regular with a spectacular goal which won the final of the 1990 Premier Series (a now defunct competition involving the League's top five teams).

Garry LUND.
Defender.
An all-round sportsman — he has played volleyball at under 18 international level and senior cricket. The soccer career of this (6ft 3in) centre-back was disrupted by a severe knee injury shortly after being called up for New Zealand's senior squad in 1989. Has only recently regained full fitness.

Michael FULLEN.
Defender.
Extremely consistent in the heart of United's defence. Gained experience with local Southern Regional League clubs Nomads United and Halswell United before joining The Rams in 1987. A former New Zealand youth international.

Michael McGARRY.
Midfielder.
The highest-rated player in New Zealand domestic soccer, having gained a hatful of individual accolades. A skilful midfielder with Mosgiel, Dunedin City and Sydney Olympic before signing for United in 1989. On the senior international scene since 1986, and New Zealand's outstanding performer against England last year.

Danny HALLIGAN.
Midfielder.
A terrier-like midfielder, and an international regular during recent years. Joined United in 1987, after serving Nomads United and Halswell United, and was Players' Player of the Year at the end of his second season in the top grade.

Allan CARVILLE.
Midfielder.
Like Halligan and Fullen, was recruited from Halswell United in 1987 and has played a major role in subsequent successes. A consistent goalscorer, but in and out of the New Zealand senior squad during the past two years.

Keith BRAITHWAITE.
Midfielder.
The only British import still attatched to United. A Liverpudlian, he played for Chorley, Leek Town, Northwich Victoria and Wigan Athletic before emigrating to New Zealand in 1980. United have been his only club Down Under. Formerly a potent striker (the national league's leading scorer in 1987 and 1988), now a clever midfielder. Recorded his 200th game and 100th goal in the National League during 1991.

Julyan FALLOON.
Striker.
A member of New Zealand's Olympic side, and a fine striker who could develop into one of this country's best players.

Alun EVANS.
Midfielder.
An unsung hero before his two dramatic goals won the 1991 Chatham Cup Final for United. A left-sided midfielder, previously with Woolston.

Johan VERWEIJ.
Defender.
The veteran of the side at 35, originally a striker. Could have represented New Zealand at senior level but for lengthy stints in Holland (with Sparta and Feyenoord) and Australia (Brisbane Lions and Footscray). The New Zealand National League's leading scorer in 1979, but switched to central defender several years ago.

Dominic ROBINSON.
Striker.
Made National League debut this year and is being groomed for the future. Good ball control and admirable pace.

Julian BOWDEN.
Winger.
A robust, pacy winger, capped at Olympic international level but yet to win a regular place in the United first team.

Asia

BY PAUL **MOON**

SAUDI ARABIA

MAJED ABDULLAH, the "Pele of the Desert", has been the dominant figure in domestic soccer for almost a decade but now he has been eclipsed by a worthy successor — Fahd Al Mhallal of Al Shabab.

He grabbed 20 goals during the season (double Majed's tally) as his side, traditionally Riyadh's "third team", carried off the title.

Symbolically, Al Mhallal scored the only goal in the final of the newly introduced championship play-offs.

Poor Majed, now 31, looked a shadow of his former self in this game and, indeed, for the entire season.

But he got on the scoresheet in the King's Cup Final, which remains local soccer's showpiece and drew a 65,000 crowd to the King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh.

His 87th-minute penalty earned Al Nasr a 1-1 draw with Al Ittihad, but the Jeddah side won on penalties after extra time failed to produce any further goals.

SOUTH KOREA

DAEWOO regained the Professional League title by finishing ten points clear of Hyundai.

Their success was founded upon a solid defence, in which national team captain Chung Young Hwan was outstanding. Chung deservedly gained the Player of the Tournament award.

Third-placed Pohang had the top scorer in Lee Ki Geun, with 16 goals.

Last year's champions, Lucky Gold Star, had a disastrous season and finished bottom.

MALAYSIA

THE FA CUP, introduced to extend the season and sandwiched between the end of the Semi-Professional League and start of the Malaysia Cup, is quickly establishing itself as a popular feature.

There were 45,000 spectators at Kuala Lumpur's Merdeka Stadium to see the 1991 final, and most went home happy after local favourites Selangor beat Perak 1-0.

Ismail Ibrahim scored the winner after 76 minutes.

Getting together, Japanese style

BY BILL **DAY**

FOOTBALL'S growth in Japan is likely to lead to quite a few British players going out there to join the new professional league, now taking shape.

Gary Lineker's deal with Grampus Eight of Nagoya is the biggest so far, but several others could well take place.

Big-name internationals, perhaps just over the hill but still capable of doing well in a less demanding setting, are obvious targets.

For those thinking of making the move, there are a few tips.

1. Take shoes off at home. Guests always step through the front door barefoot.

2. Avoid centre table-to-wall position when dining with friends. That is the most "honoured" position, with guests seated in hierarchal order around the throne.

3. Never enter a house or office wearing an overcoat.

4. Apologise, but never look your victim in the eye.

5. Print name cards before arrival. The Japanese love them. Treat name cards with reverence.

6. Never eat or drink in public places or on public transport.

British visitors will not be impressed with Japan's supermarkets, but the corner stores are open 24 hours a day. The most popular foods are sashimi (raw fish), yakitori (barbecued chicken on skewer) and sukemono (picked vegetables).

Beer, not sake, is the tipple, but wines from Australia, California and France are popular. The Japanese have become the worlds biggest imbibers, with drunkenness a major problem.

Soccer training, from an early morning start, is gruelling. The communal bath, or sento, is scalding but offers perfect relaxation afterwards, but first players must learn to wash outside the bath. Seated on a plastic stool, they will have their backs washed by team-mates and be expected to return the compliment.

The players will expect Britons to join them for a drinking session in the evenings. No wives or girlfriends. They call it tsukiai, or getting together. The group will visit at least two bars, the second a hostess club or karaoke bar.

Contracts for top stars at sponsored clubs will be excellent, but a Lineker or a Robson would wince at the prices. One potato costs more than 50p. Apples are £1 each. Decent beef or lamb is unobtainable. And tax is heavy.

Exercised

Tokyo has one of the world's lowest crime rates with stiff drink-drive rules.

Capital punishment for murder is still in force, but has not been exercised for a few years.

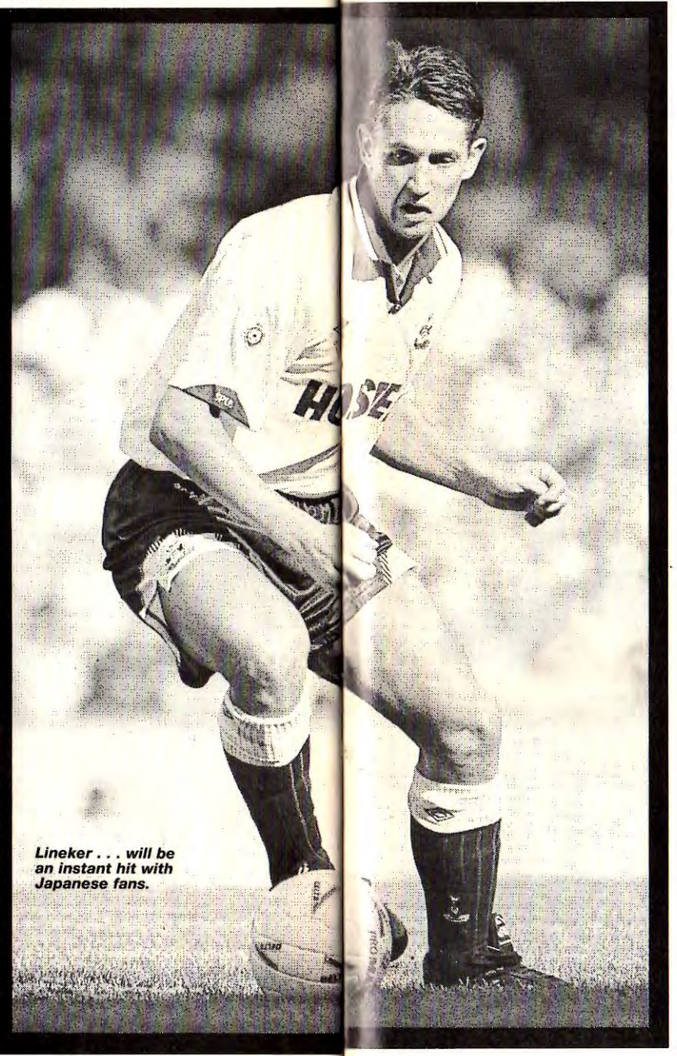
Boris Becker, Seve Ballesteros, Pele, Ayrton Senna and Diego Maradona are in the big league of Japan's sporting heroes. Gazza? They've hardly heard of him!

Lineker will become an instant hit with Japan's growing number of football followers — if his son's illness allows him to take up the contract.

Shigeru Samata, administrative manager of Aichi Pro Soccer, the company who own Grampus Eight, says: "His fresh-faced image will appeal to Japanese people.

"I knew he was about 30 but I was surprised when I saw him because he looked so young — about 22.

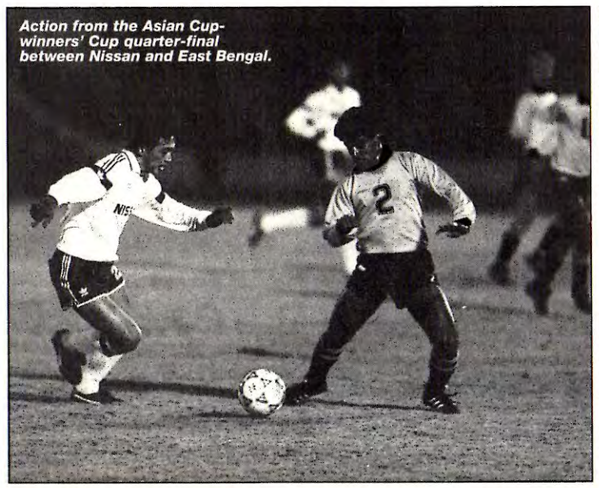
"We chose Lineker because of his excellent skill and the fact that he is a clean player who has never received any bookings."



Lineker . . . will be an instant hit with Japanese fans.

EAST BENGAL FIND THE GOING TOO TOUGH!

BY G.C. **DAS**



Action from the Asian Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final between Nissan and East Bengal.

EAST BENGAL were eliminated from the Asian Cup-winners' Cup at the quarter-final stage, losing heavily to Nissan of Japan.

The first leg at Calcutta's Salt Lake Stadium drew a crowd of 70,000, but they had little to cheer.

Nissan won 3-1, and repeated that score in the second leg.

East Bengal's three Englishmen, Steven Prindiville, Neil Edmonds and Peter Maguire, had little effect, although Maguire scored in the home leg.

Staged

The 47th DCM invitation tournament, staged at the same time, lost some of its attractiveness because East Bengal were unable to compete.

The PAS Club became the first team from Iran to win the event. They took five points from three games in their group, then beat Tata Academy 4-1 in the semi-final and Mohun Bagan by the only goal in the final.

Akbar Yousefi, who is not a regular player for PAS, replaced the injured Reza Abedian and scored the deciding goal.

Mohun Bagan won their semi-final 3-1 against Mohammedan Sporting, thus gaining some revenge for their defeat by the same club in the Durand Cup Final a few weeks earlier.

Nigerian striker Chima Okerie scored all three goals in the semi-final.

The other four teams were All-India Football Federation, Border Security Force, Royal Nepal Airlines and JCT Punjab.

East Bengal won the IFA Shield, beating the Army XI 3-1 in the final — the 99th in the tournament's history.

Yomiuri looking good

BY MIKE **PLASTOW** AND MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

YOMIURI reached the mid-season break in Japan on course for a fifth championship.

They had nine victories and two draws in their 11 matches, scoring 24 goals, and were the only team to average above two per game.

Even a 4-1 defeat by Nissan after extra time in the Emperor's Cup Final has not harmed their confidence.

Brazilian Juninho — Alcides Fonseca Junior — has joined Yomiuri from Olimpia, and even at 33 he seems certain to improve the club's defence. Juninho was a member of the 1982 Brazilian World Cup squad.

Rehak . . . hat-trick against Hitachi.

Yomiuri were six points clear of Nissan, who also were unbeaten but had drawn three of their last four games.

Manager Hidehiko Shimizu is not worried. "We're in a transitional period, and have some good players coming through," he said.

"We are better prepared than most clubs in the build-up to the start of the professional league in 1993."

Nissan also were doing well in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup, beating Singapore's Geylang 6-0 on aggregate, and defeating India's East Bengal 7-1 over the two legs.

In the Emperor's Cup Nissan had a lucky break when Heracles Costa of Yomiuri was sent off for arguing, and then in extra time former Japan national captain Hisashi Kato was carried off.

Not surprisingly, Yomiuri collapsed and Nissan went on to win 4-1.

JR East Furukawa lost four of their first five games but have risen to third, with Czech international Pavel Rehak scoring three in a 5-1 win over Hitachi.

Doubled

Rehak, signed from Sparta Prague, thus doubled his total but was still two behind the top scorers, Toninho of Yomiuri and Renato of Nissan.

Gates for the first part of the season averaged 5,361 — but there is more interest in soccer than that figure might indicate.

JR East Furukawa, for example, asked the public what name the club should adopt for the move to professionalism next year, and had almost 10,000 suggestions.

The first choice is Jef United, which according to manager Osamu Kawamoto "makes us sound like an English team".

Nissan have opted for a Spanish touch. They will be called Nissan FC Yokohama Marinos.

A SLOW RETURN TO NORMALITY IN KUWAIT

BY TONY **MOYSE**

Burning . . . the last of over 700 oil well fires is tackled in Northern Kuwait.

THE Gulf War was the first major conflict to which everyone had immediate access, via TV, and while much of the media footage was concerned with Allied attacks on Iraq, the devastation in Kuwait also was vividly portrayed.

Many commentators felt the country would need several years to recover, but in fact, with considerable international support, it has made rapid progress in its return to something resembling normality.

The biggest single factor was the remarkable effort that saw over 700 oil well fires — started by Saddam's retreating armies — extinguished in nine months. But soccer also plays an important part.

Football in Kuwait reached a peak ten years ago, when the national side qualified for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Under Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, they opened with a 1-1 draw against Czechoslovakia, managed by Josef Venglos. Although they went on to lose 4-1 to Platini-inspired France and 1-0 to England — the goal was scored by Trevor Francis — they were by no means disgraced, and the players are still looked on as sporting heroes.

Now their present-day counterparts are helping to raise morale with their efforts on the field, this time in the Olympic qualifying tournament — a test of stamina almost as much as of skill.

Having won through from a group involving India, Lebanon, Oman and Syria, Kuwait now face Bahrain, China, Japan, Qatar and South Korea to see who goes to Barcelona.

The Kuwait National League has 14 clubs in its First Division and an eight-team Second Division, and top matches regularly attract noisy and enthusiastic crowds of 25,000. A vital goal is often greeted by spectators throwing their traditional headdresses into the air.

In November, coinciding almost exactly with the capping of the final oil-well fire, Norwich City became the first club to visit Kuwait since the Gulf War. They played a televised friendly against the Kuwait Olympic team, and despite fielding a side containing many First Division regulars, they had to settle for a 0-0 draw.

Qadsia are one of the top clubs in the country and the stadium, typical of others in Kuwait, can accommodate nearly 30,000.

There is one large stand, with terracing on the other three sides. The Qadsia equivalent of the directors box is large with luxurious armchairs and sofas on a marble floor.

The Kuwaiti team's shirts bore the slogan "Do no forget our hostages", and a board behind one of the goals carried a picture of a Qadsia club member still held in Iraq.

There is a long way to go yet . . .

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N. America

User friendly mascot reveals some flaws

BY PAUL **GARDNER**

THE dog who is to be the mascot for the 1994 World Cup has made a subdued debut. Which is about right for a nameless, voiceless, and sexless creature.

A unisex mascot is in keeping with the times, though designer Jean MacCurdy — who heads the Warner Brothers Animation Division — repeatedly referred to it as "he".

The mascot will be mute, not a sound, not even a woof-woof, will cross his, her or its lips.

"It will not speak, it will have no voice, said Seth Abraham, president of Time Warner Sports. But the creature will get a name eventually. A name-the-mascot competition among soccer fans is planned.

The mascot is the first result of a marketing deal that makes Time Warner Sports Merchandising the company to sell World Cup '94 merchandise all over the world.

The enormous sales potential seemed to turn Abraham's head. He excitedly talked of soccer "having 27 billion fans around the world" — a figure approximately five times greater than the entire population.

The exaggeration, no doubt, is a result of TWSM's determination not to adopt a nationalistic, American approach.

They want to explore the full range of soccer's popularity as a world-wide sport. So, in designing the mascot, existing Warner Brothers characters (eg Bugs Bunny) were rejected because they already had an American flavour. Anything that smacked of Yankee jingoism was doomed.

"We did not want a flat-out American character — we ruled out an eagle immediately," said Abrahams.

Worldwide

"And we decided there would be no stars and stripes, no red, white and blue.

"Previous mascots, like England's World Cup Willie in 1966, or Argentina's Gaunchito in 1978, they all had strong nationalistic ties. But we want to market worldwide.

"Other mascots were named locally, too. When we have our competition for the name, we want to involve fans worldwide."

The mascot was eight weeks in the making. Why it had come out as a dog and not, for instance, as a cat or an otter, was never really satisfactorily explained.

"Dogs are very athletic creatures," said Abraham. "They reflect the youth and vitality of soccer." Ditto for cats, he was told. "I just bought a dog," replied Abraham.

Jean MacCurdy also admitted having a dog. "We tried a number of species, a whole panoply of animals and humanoids — rabbits, birds, cats and so on.

"Eventually, the dog was giving us a mobility, a real attitude and sense of fun that we weren't getting with the other creatures. He's the dog next door, a user-friendly dog."

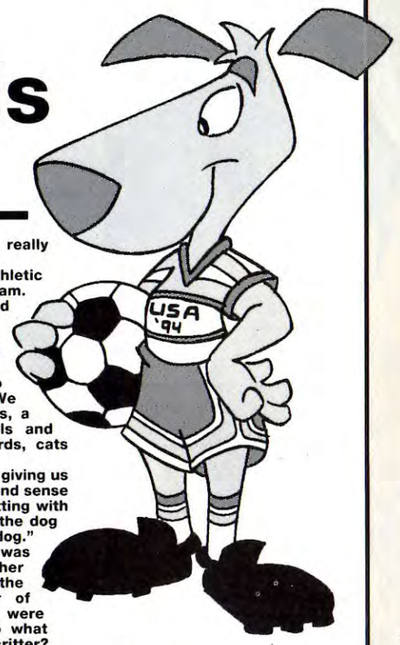
Suggestions that he was reminiscent of that other cartoon dog, Goofy, from the rival Disney studios, or of Huckleberry Hound, were greeted with outrage. So what sort of dog is this critter? "Mixed," said MacCurdy. "I think there's a bit of beagle in there."

Some observers have mistaken the poor dog for a moose.

More seriously, there is a general feeling that the animal has a nursery air, and was thought up with children in mind.

When asked what sort of soccer expertise had gone into the mascot's design, Abraham had no names to offer. Which adds weight to the criticism that the American World Cup organisers still lack soccer sensitivity.

How else would they allow the mascot to wear a shirt with horizontal stripes? Rugby stripes!



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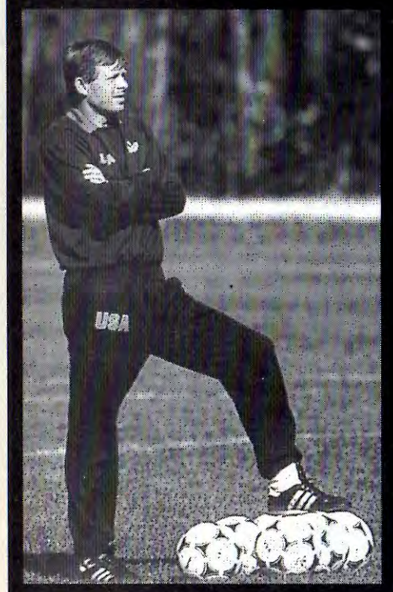
TALENT STRUGGLES AGAINST THE SYSTEM



WHEN Alan Rothenberg swept to victory in the United States Soccer Federation's presidential election in the summer of 1990, change was in the air.

A new, younger, more dynamic group seemed to have taken over. But the changes have been slow in coming — and in at least one key area no change has been made.

Bora Milutinovic took over from Bob Gansler (left) as the national team coach, something that ought to have meant a radical change of philosophy for the entire US soccer system.

It hasn't happened, because Milutinovic should be more accurately called the World Cup coach. His job is to prepare the US for 1994. Up to now he has had little contact with the other national coaches — Lothar Osiander (Olympics), Bobby Howe (under-20), and Roy Rees (under-17).

So who is running the show, setting the standards for US coaches and players? An interesting question — for the Director of Coaching and Player Development is none other than Gansler, the man Milutinovic replaced.

While Bora goes around smiling and glad-handing and making friends, Bob is the one who is establishing the criteria for player selection and development.

It is the same story of preserving the status quo in the coaching schools. Despite assurances that a major revision would be undertaken, no changes in the syllabus have been introduced.

Indeed, the appointment of University of South Florida coach Jay Miller to head the coaching schools can be seen only as a reactionary move, for Miller is a member of the clique controlling the schools since they started in 1970.

The problem that needs to be addressed is that the current system of finding talent is almost scandalously biased in favour of white players from the middle-class, suburban youth leagues.

The system called the Olympic Development Program (ODP) simply because the word "Olympic" opens all sorts of doors in the US — is closely linked to the colleges.

ODP is run, by and large, by college coaches, and so it pays great attention to those players who go to college.

The group it ignores is that made of immigrant players, mostly Latins, mostly in the big cities. A group not considered "college material". Yet that group contains some quite extraordinary talent.

On a sunny Saturday last November, the New York City High Schools played their "A" and "B" finals, and their All-Star game. An all-day festival of fine youth soccer. Over 100 players to be seen — all of whom could play. But all were immigrant kids.

Winner

The winner of the "A" title, FDR High School from Brooklyn, included boys from 17 countries.

Most of these boys will not go to college, most of their families will not be able to afford, or will not be willing to pay, approximately $500 a year to keep a player in the ODP — attending trials and tournaments.

The USSF ought to do something to harness this talent. But the old guard of the coaching system — still, alas, in charge — apparently do not even see that there is talent here.

The USSF had a coaching scout at the New York games, who reported back that there was little of interest: an incredible judgement.

So the scouts will continue to see more talent in the suburban high schools, where All-Star games always feature a number of players who cannot even kick a ball properly.

But the boys are college material, and it is so much easier to keep them in the system.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: (REST OF WORLD)

EUROPE

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-6
16.10.90	Austria v Liechtenstein	10-0

CONCACAF

2 participants to qualify

Caribbean Zone

1st Round

28.10.90	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-3
12.11.90	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-0
21.10.90	Haiti v Cuba	1-1
28.10.90	Cuba v Haiti	2-2
28.10.90	Aruba v St Lucia	3-3
11.11.90	Aruba v St Lucia	0-9
29.10.90	Antigua v Barbados	0-0
11.11.90	Barbados v Antigua	5-0
21.10.90	Dutch Antilles v Surinam	0-1
04.11.90	Surinam v Dutch Antilles	0-0

2nd Round

17.02.91	Barbados v Surinam	0-0
10.03.91	Surinam v Barbados	2-1
24.02.91	Trin. & Tobago v Jamaica	1-0
03.03.91	Jamaica v Trin. & Tobago	1-0
10.03.91	St Lucia v Haiti	1-1
24.03.91	Haiti v St Lucia	2-1

Central Zone

17.03.91	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2
04.04.91	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
17.03.91	Belize v El Salvador	0-2
24.03.91	El Salvador v Belize	3-0
	Panama v Costa Rica*	

*= Costa Rica suspended from all FIFA competitions with age limit. Panama qualified for 3rd round.

Caribbean Zone

3rd Round

Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91	Surinam v Mexico	1-1
05.09.91	Honduras v Mexico	1-1
11.09.91	Mexico v Honduras	0-1
16.09.91	Mexico v Surinam	6-0
24.09.91	Honduras v Surinam	2-0
06.10.91	Surinam v Honduras	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Honduras	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	3	4
Surinam	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Honduras qualify for final Round.

Group B

05.05.91	Canada v Trin. & Tobago	3-0
12.05.91	El Salvador v Canada	3-1
19.05.91	Trin. & Tobago v Canada	1-3
14.07.91	El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago#	2-0
28.07.91	Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
31.08.91	Canada v El Salvador	4-0

#= walkover.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
El Salvador	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	3	8	2

Canada qualify for final Round.

Group C

23.06.91	United States v Haiti	8-0
14.07.91	Panama v United States	1-1
20.07.91	United States v Panama	7-1
26.08.91	Haiti v United States	0-2
21.09.91	Panama v Haiti	2-2
30.11.91	Haiti v Panama	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	3	1	0	18	2	7
Panama	3	0	2	1	4	10	2
Haiti	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

United States qualify for final Round.

ASIA

3 participants to qualify

West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91	Yemen v Pakistan	1-0
	Qatar v Iran	2-0
06.09.91	Iran v UAE	2-2
	Yemen v Qatar	1-1
13.09.91	Pakistan v Qatar	0-4
	UAE v Yemen	2-1
18.09.91	Yemen v Iran	1-1
	Pakistan v UAE	0-1
23.09.91	Qatar v UAE	2-1
	Iran v Pakistan	5-0
28.09.91	Pakistan v Yemen	0-2
	Iran v Qatar	2-0
04.10.91	UAE v Iran	0-1
	Qatar v Yemen	3-0
09.10.91	Qatar v Pakistan	2-0
	Yemen v UAE	0-0
14.10.91	Iran v Yemen	2-1
	UAE v Pakistan	2-0
20.10.91	UAE v Qatar	0-2
	Pakistan v Iran	0-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	8	6	1	1	16	4	13
Iran	8	5	2	1	19	6	12
UAE	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Yemen	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	0	23	0

Group B

(Tournament in Hyderabad, India)

04.08.91	Oman v India	1-1
05.08.91	Lebanon v Syria	0-1
07.08.91	Kuwait v Oman	1-0
09.08.91	Syria v Kuwait	1-1
08.08.91	Lebanon v India	3-1
10.08.91	Oman v Lebanon	1-0
11.08.91	Syria v India	1-0
12.08.91	Lebanon v Kuwait	1-2
13.08.91	Oman v Syria	0-0
14.08.91	Kuwait v India	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kuwait	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Syria	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Oman	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Lebanon	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
India	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Group C

(Tournament in Bahrain)

19.09.91	Bahrain v Sri Lanka	6-0
19.09.91	S. Arabia v Jordan	1-2
22.09.91	Bahrain v Jordan	4-0
23.09.91	Sri Lanka v S. Arabia	1-5
25.09.91	Jordan v Sri Lanka	7-0
	S. Arabia v Bahrain	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	10	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Jordan	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
Sri Lanka	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

East Asia — 1st Round.

Group D

1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91	S Korea v Philippines	10-0
	Bangladesh v Thailand	2-3
20.05.91	Malaysia v Philippines	5-0
	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-6
22.05.91	Bangladesh v Malaysia	0-1
	Thailand v S Korea	1-2
24.05.91	Thailand v Malaysia	4-1
	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-8
26.05.91	Philippines v Thailand	1-7
	S Korea v Malaysia	0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91	Malaysia v Thailand	1-0
	S Korea v Philippines	7-0
01.07.91	S Korea v Malaysia	2-0
	Thailand v Bangladesh	4-0
03.07.91	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-1
	Philippines v Malayasia	0-5
05.07.91	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-3
	Thailand v S Korea	0-2
07.07.91	Thailand v Philippines	6-0
	Malaysia v Bangladesh	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

Group E

1st Leg (N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-12
17.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	0-2
	Nepal v Maldives	0-1
19.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	4-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
21.08.91	Nepal v China	0-4
	Maldives v Singapore	1-1
23.08.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-1

2nd Leg (China/Beijing)

26.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-17
28.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	1-3
	Nepal v Maldives	2-1
30.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	7-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
01.09.91	Nepal v China	0-10
	Maldives v Singapore	2-4
03.09.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	8	7	1	0	51	1	15
N Korea	8	6	1	1	27	3	13
Singapore	8	3	1	4	14	16	7
Maldives	8	1	1	6	5	47	3
Nepal	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Group F

08.06.91	Hong Kong v Taiwan	1-1
09.06.91	Indonesia v Japan	1-2
16.06.91	Indonesia v Taiwan	2-1
	Hong Kong v Japan	3-1
23.06.91	Indonesia v Hong Kong	0-0
	Taiwan v Japan	0-3
29.06.91	Japan v Taiwan	2-0
30.06.91	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
07.07.91	Japan v Hong Kong	3-0
	Taiwan v Indonesia	3-1
13.07.91	Japan v Indonesia	3-1
14.07.91	Taiwan v Hong Kong	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

2nd Round

(Tournament in Malaysia)

18.01.92	Bahrain v Qatar	0-1
18.01.92	S Korea v Kuwait	1-1
19.01.92	Japan v China	1-2
21.01.92	Bahrain v S Korea	
21.01.92	China v Qatar	
21.01.92	Kuwait v Japan	
24.01.92	Qatar v S Korea	
25.01.92	Kuwait v China	
25.01.92	Japan v Bahrain	
27.01.92	S Korea v Japan	
27.01.92	Bahrain v China	
28.01.92	Qatar v Kuwait	
30.01.92	Japan v Qatar	
30.01.92	China v S Korea	
30.01.92	Kuwait v Bahrain	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Qatar	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Kuwait	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
S Korea	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Japan	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Bahrain	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Top three qualify for Olympic Games Finals in Barcelona.

AFRICA

3 participants to qualify

2nd Round

Group 1

	Mauritius v **Zambia	
10.08.91	Sudan v Egypt	1-2
11.08.91	Mozambique v Uganda	0-1
23.08.91	Egypt v Sudan	2-0
24.08.91	Uganda v Mozambique	3-1
	*Ethiopia v Malawi	
	**Gabon v Cameroon	
	*Angola v Ivory Coast	

Group 2

10.08.91	Tunisia v Senegal	3-1
11.08.91	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.08.91	Morocco v Mauritania	6-0
	Liberia* v Togo	
	Ghana v Guinea**	
11.08.91	Zaire* v Zimbabwe	
23.08.91	Mauritania v Morocco	0-0
24.08.91	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
25.08.91	Senegal v Tunisia	1-0
	Togo v Liberia*	
	Zimbabwe v Zaire*	

3rd Round

Group 1

25.10.91	Egypt v Malawi	3-1
26.10.91	Uganda v Cameroon	1-2
09.11.91	Malawi v Egypt	0-0
10.11.91	Cameroon v Uganda	2-0
	Mauritius v Ivory Coast*	

Egypt, Cameroon & Mauritius qualify for 4th Round.

Group 2

27.10.91	Tunisia v Zimbabwe	3-1
27.10.91	Ghana v Sierra Leone	2-1
09.11.91	Sierra Leone v Ghana	2-2
10.11.91	Zimbabwe v Tunisia	5-2
	Togo* v Morocco	

Zimbabwe, Ghana & Morocco qualify for 4th Round.

4th Round

08.02.92	Cameroon v Morocco	
09.02.92	Mauritius v Ghana	
09.02.91	Zimbabwe v Egypt	
21.02.92	Egypt v Zimbabwe	
21.02.91	Morocco v Cameroon	
22.02.92	Ghana v Mauritius	

*= Withdrew from tournament.
**= Suspended from tournament.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 participant to qualify

1st Round

19.05.91	Australia v Papua NG	4-0
22.05.91	Australia v N.Zealand	2-0
26.05.91	Australia v Fiji	7-0
07.11.91	New Zealand v Fiji	4-0
09.11.91	Papua NG v Fiji	0-2
11.11.91	Papua NG v Australia	0-5
13.11.91	N.Zealand v Australia	1-2
15.11.91	Papua NG v N.Zealand	1-3
16.11.91	Fiji v Australia	0-3
18.11.91	N.Zealand v Papua NG	4-2
20.11.91	Fiji v N.Zealand	0-0
22.11.91	Fiji v Papua NG	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Australia	6	6	0	0	23	1	12
New Zealand	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Fiji	6	1	2	3	3	15	3
Papua NG	6	0	1	5	2	19	1

Australia qualify for play-off against team from Europe/Israel.

SOUTH AMERICA

2 to qualify

Group A

Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

Group B

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.

31.01.92	Paraguay v Venezuela	
01.02.92	Brazil v Peru	
02.02.92	Uruguay v Ecuador	
02.02.92	Argentina v Bolivia	
03.02.92	Peru v Colombia	
03.02.92	Brazil v Paraguay	
04.02.92	Uruguay v Chile	
04.02.92	Argentina v Ecuador	
05.02.92	Peru v Venezuela	
05.02.92	Brazil v Colombia	
06.02.92	Ecuador v Bolivia	
06.02.92	Argentina v Chile	
07.02.92	Colombia v Venezuela	
07.02.92	Paraguay v Peru	
08.02.92	Uruguay v Bolivia	
08.02.92	Chile v Ecuador	
09.02.92	Paraguay v Colombia	
09.02.92	Brazil v Venezuela	
10.02.92	Chile v Bolivia	
10.02.92	Argentina v Uruguay	

Final Round:

12.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group A	
12.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group B	
14.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group B	
14.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group A	
16.02.92	2nd Group A v 2nd Group B	
16.02.92	1st Group A v 1st Group B	

Scotland's Eion Jess beats Romania's Ene to score the opener in a 2-0 victory.

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The UEFA Under-21 tournament also doubles as the Olympic qualifying tournament with the exception of Scotland, England, San Marino and Luxembourg who do not take part in the Olympics. Spain qualify as hosts.

GROUP 1:

29.05.90	Iceland v Albania	0-0
04.09.90	Iceland v France	0-1
25.09.90	Czechoslovakia v Iceland	7-0
09.10.90	Spain v Iceland	2-0
12.10.90	France v Czechoslovakia	1-2
13.11.90	Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-1
16.11.90	Albania v France	0-0
18.12.90	Spain v Albania	1-0
19.02.91	France v Spain	0-1
29.03.91	France v Albania	3-0
30.04.91	Albania v Czechoslovakia	1-5
25.05.91	Albania v Iceland	2-1
04.06.91	Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
03.09.91	Czechoslovakia v France	1-0
24.09.91	Iceland v Spain	1-0
11.10.91	Spain v France	0-0
15.10.91	Czechoslovakia v Albania	3-0
12.11.91	Spain v Czechoslovakia	1-1
19.11.91	France v Iceland	2-1
17.12.91	Albania v Spain	Cancelled

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CZECH	8	7	1	0	23	4	15
France	8	3	2	3	7	5	8
Spain	7	3	2	2	6	5	8
Albania	7	1	2	4	3	13	4
Iceland	8	1	1	6	3	15	3

GROUP 2:

11.09.90	Scotland v Romania	2-0
11.09.90	Switzerland v Bulgaria	0-2
16.10.90	Romania v Bulgaria	0-1
16.10.90	Scotland v Switzerland	4-2
13.11.90	Bulgaria v Scotland	2-0
26.03.91	Scotland v Bulgaria	1-0
02.04.91	Switzerland v Romania	0-2
30.04.91	Bulgaria v Switzerland	1-0
10.09.91	Switzerland v Scotland	0-3
15.10.91	Romania v Scotland	1-3
12.11.91	Romania v Switzerland	1-3
19.11.91	Bulgaria v Romania	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SCOTLAND	6	5	0	1	13	5	10
Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	6	2	8
Romania	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Switzerland	6	1	0	5	5	13	2

GROUP 3:

11.09.90	USSR v Norway	2-2
09.10.90	Norway v Hungary	3-1
18.10.90	Italy v Hungary	1-0
18.04.91	Hungary v USSR	0-0
02.05.91	Hungary v Italy	0-1
05.06.91	Norway v Italy	6-0
12.06.91	Italy v USSR	1-0
27.08.91	Norway v USSR	0-1
24.09.91	USSR v Hungary	2-0
16.10.91	USSR v Italy	1-1
29.10.91	Hungary v Norway	0-1
13.11.91	Italy v Norway	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
ITALY	6	4	1	1	6	8	9
Norway	6	3	1	2	13	5	7
USSR	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Hungary	6	0	1	5	1	8	1

GROUP 4:

17.10.90	San Marino v Denmark	0-3
30.10.90	Yugoslavia v Austria	1-0
12.11.90	Denmark v Yugoslavia	3-0
21.11.90	San Marino v Austria	0-2
13.03.91	Yugoslavia v San Marino	5-0
03.04.91	Austria v San Marino	3-0
17.04.91	Denmark v San Marino	7-0
30.04.91	Yugoslavia v Denmark	2-6
04.06.91	Denmark v Austria	1-1
02.10.91	San Marino v Yugoslavia	0-1
08.10.91	Austria v Denmark	1-1
12.11.91	Austria v Yugoslavia	1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DENMARK	6	4	2	0	21	4	10
Yugoslavia	6	4	0	2	11	10	8
Austria	6	2	2	2	8	5	6
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	21	0

GROUP 5:

30.10.90	Luxembourg v Germany	0-3
26.02.91	Belgium v Luxembourg	2-0
30.04.91	Germany v Belgium	3-1
10.09.91	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
19.11.91	Belgium v Germany	0-3
17.12.91	Germany v Luxembourg	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GERMANY	4	4	0	0	12	1	8
Belgium	4	2	0	2	5	6	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

GROUP 6:

11.09.90	Finland v Portugal	0-1
16.10.90	Portugal v Holland	0-0
18.12.90	Malta v Holland	1-4
08.02.91	Malta v Portugal	1-3
19.02.91	Portugal v Malta	2-0
12.03.91	Holland v Malta	7-1
16.04.91	Holland v Finland	1-0
04.06.91	Finland v Holland	1-7
26.06.91	Finland v Malta	3-1
10.09.91	Portugal v Finland	2-0
15.10.91	Holland v Portugal	1-1
16.10.91	Malta v Finland	1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
HOLLAND	6	4	2	0	20	4	10
Portugal	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	7	13	4
Malta	6	0	0	6	5	22	0

GROUP 7:

16.10.90	England v Poland	0-1
16.10.90	Rep.Ireland v Turkey	3-2
13.11.90	Rep.Ireland v England	0-3
13.11.90	Turkey v Poland	0-1
26.03.91	England v Rep.Ireland	3-0
16.04.91	Poland v Turkey	2-0
30.04.91	Rep.Ireland v Poland	1-2
30.04.91	Turkey v England	2-2
15.10.91	England v Turkey	2-0
15.10.91	Poland v Rep.Ireland	2-0
12.11.91	Poland v England	2-1
12.11.91	Turkey v Rep.Ireland	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
POLAND	6	6	0	0	10	2	11
England	6	3	1	2	11	5	7
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	11	3
Rep.Ireland	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

GROUP 8:

31.10.90	Sweden v Greece	5-0
21.11.90	Cyprus v Sweden	1-1
21.11.90	Greece v Israel	2-2
20.03.91	Israel v Cyprus	4-0
17.04.91	Cyprus v Greece	1-0
01.05.91	Sweden v Cyprus	6-0
16.10.91	Sweden v Israel	2-1
30.10.91	Israel v Greece	2-1
14.11.91	Israel v Sweden	0-0
20.11.91	Greece v Sweden	1-3
04.12.91	Cyprus v Israel	1-2
18.12.91	Greece v Cyprus	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SWEDEN	6	4	2	0	17	3	10
Israel	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Greece	6	1	1	4	6	13	3
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	3	15	3

Europe

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

Suarez sweeps back as Orrico clears off

ONLY one team can stop Milan from winning yet another championship. And that is Milan themselves.

They were streaking away at the halfway stage and it is hard to see them shooting themselves in the foot or anywhere else for that matter.

But there is life in the other half of the city, where supporters have taken new heart from the reappearance of the veteran Luis Suarez (keft), now 56.

Suarez, a much-travelled Spaniard, won numerous honours with Internazionale as a player and has now returned for a second spell as coach.

Poor Corrado Orrico looked doomed from the start of his nine-month spell in charge. Coaching Second Division Lucchese is no real preparation for handling a club of Inter's status. Defeat by Boavista was no way for the UEFA Cup holders to behave, and in recent weeks Inter players and officials were happy to get out of their own stadium without being abused by their own fans. A 1-0 defeat by Atalanta merely confirmed that Orrico's time was up.

"I consider my presence now to be more of a negative factor than a positive factor, so I am removing myself to make way for somebody else," he said in one of the quaintest quotes of the year.

The somebody else was, of course, Suarez. But he too has a big job on hand.

The bottom club, Ascoli, also sacked their coach, with a 4-0 home defeat by Torino being enough to slam the door on Giancarlo De Sisti.

Sweeping

On a happier note England's David Platt scored twice in struggling Bari's defeat of Roma, and Marco Van Basten scored a hat-trick, including two penalties, as Milan beat Foggia 3-1.

Van Basten is the Serie A's top scorer with 13, and unbeaten Milan went three points clear. Coach Fabio Capello has been sweeping all before him with the side that Arrigo Sacchi built.

As Van Basten said after the 5-0 defeat of Napoli: "We cannot claim that we were perfect because in soccer perfection does not exist. However, this was one time when we came pretty close."

Second-placed Juventus were losing points and faith in their established stars, although goals in successive games against Parma and Cagliari convinced many fans that the world's most expensive footballer, Roberto Baggio, is as good as ever.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni's use of Baggio has become the subject of nationwide debate.

During the "magic nights" of Italia '90, Baggio played more or less as a striker for Azeglio Vicini's Italy. Trapattoni, however, prefers him to drop deep behind the two strikers, and to chase and cover. All new experiences to Baggio . . . but generally improved performances, plus the goals, suggest that Trapattoni might be right. Having "cured" Baggio, Trapattoni now has to work on his two strikers, Casiraghi and Schillaci, both of whom continue to play well without doing the one thing that is most expected of them — score goals regularly.

All of neutral Italy will hope that Trapattoni can revive the flagging spirits of this pair.

They, along with a refound Baggio, represent the last realistic hope in the face of the threat that Milan will have killed off all interest in the championship by mid-March.

Napoli's limitations were cruelly exposed at San Siro. Lazio are a goalkeeper and a deal of self-confidence away from being a championship-chasing side, and Genoa and Torino appear more concerned about their ongoing UEFA Cup runs than the League.

And, for the first time in four years, Milan can look forward to a springtime unencumbered with European quarter and semi-finals. Milan rule, OK.

Van Basten beats Napoli's Francini during Milan's rampant 5-0 victory.

Schillaci . . . not scoring regularly, but on target against Verona.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIM COLLINGS

RED STAR FEAR NEW EXODUS

RED STAR will restart their campaign to retain the championship this month knowing they face another exodus of talent and the possible collapse of organised football in war-torn Yugoslavia.

Even the "national" team, whose place in the European Championship finals has been threatened if the political disintegration continues, are now feeling the effects of the continuing civil unrest and the lure of big money and stability in Spain and Italy. The latest star to agree to leave is Dejan Savicevic, the Red Star midfielder, who has agreed to join AC Milan next season in a deal worth £4 million.

He will play out the season with Red Star and join the Italians in time for 1992-93.

By then, Red Star will hope to have made the most of the winter break and clinched their 19th championship and third in succession. The season re-starts on February 16.

At the close-down, Partizan were leading with 25 points from 17 games with Red Star second, a point behind, but showing awesome form.

In their final outing before the break, they beat Zeljeznicar Sarajevo 5-0 in front of a passionate 50,000 crowd, frustrated at not seeing their favourites in European action. Red Star played their Champions' Cup tie in Budapest, where they beat Anderlecht 3-2.

Savicevic's departure will not be the only one from Belgrade. He is expected to be accompanied by Darko Pancev, Miodrag Belodedic and Ilija Najdoski on an exodus threatening to reduce Red Star's strength and talent.

They already have their eyes on replacements, and 20-year-old midfielder Bolic of Celic Zenice, a Second Division club, is tipped to move in as leader of the club's new generation.

Savicevic . . . £4 million move to Milan.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Olsen seems set to move

BRONDBY are likely to lose coach Morten Olsen (right) as a bunch of top European clubs chase him.

Hamburg, Koln and Bayern Munch from Germany are interested, and Italian clubs Roma and Internazionale have joined in the hunt, impressed by Brondby's showing in last season's UEFA Cup.

Olsen, the record-capped former Denmark skipper, brought the matter to a head by demanding an annual £300,000 salary at Brondby after being tempted with similar offers from abroad.

Brondby, naturally enough, told him that was impossible for even the wealthiest Danish league club.

Olsen said: "I have had some great times with Brondby and it would be a wrench to leave. But you have to be realistic when big clubs are interested."

A crisis meeting was planned for Brondby's return from an indoor tour round Europe, with the likelihood being that Olsen would be asked to quit immediately if he was intent on leaving, rather than wait for the conclusion of his contract in June.

Speculation is rife on possible successors to his post with the Danish champions as they prepare to enter the second half of the first winter-season Superliga.

Sabbatical

The first on Brondby's list was former Danish national team boss Sepp Piontek. He was flattered, but insisted he was working out his contract with the Turkish national side which expires after the 1994 World Cup.

Brondby's next target may be an ambitious move for another of Morten Olsen's managerial heroes, Tomislav Ivic, now on sabbatical from Marseille because of the crisis in Yugoslavia. Ivic was Olsen's coach at Anderlecht.

Another Yugoslav, Ivica Osim, has been linked with the job, but the probable, realistic favourite is Danish Olympic coach Viggo Jensen. He has done well in recent seasons at Silkeborg, and his contract with them runs out in the summer.

While Danish soccer waited for the outcome of the Olsen saga, the usual exodus of players abroad continued.

Johnny Molby, cousin of Jan, joined Nantes from relegated Vejle, and Frem striker Lars Brogger left for German strugglers Fortuna Dusseldorf to become the 33rd Danish player overseas, and the ninth in the Bundesliga.

One player made the return journey — Aston Villa's Kent Nielsen, who hoped his move to AGF Aarhus would help him extend his international career.

That move freed promising young Olympic defender Marc Rieper to leave AGF for Brondby, in the biggest domestic winter transfer in Denmark.

European hopefuls B1903, who face Torino in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals, signed striker Soren Lyng and defender Kenneth Birkedal from Frem.

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

CANTONA KEEPS ON HIS DESTRUCTIVE COURSE

NO PRIZES offered for choosing the most self-destructive player in French football. Alas, he is also one of the most talented.

Eric Cantona, having been arraigned before the disciplinary committee and given a suspension, promptly and gratuitously insulted them, having the suspension increased, then proceeded to walk out on the game.

Cantona is the eternal maverick, jumping from club to club, among them Marseille and Montpellier. At the start of the season it looked as if newly-promoted, unfashionable Nimes might provide the right refuge.

Indeed, the all-forgiving Michel Platini took him back into the French team.

But whether we shall see him play for France again — he was excluded a long while for insulting Platini's predecessor — is dubious. Not, I'd imagine, in the European Championship, even if he repents and even if he gambles on unlikely rehabilitation at Sheffield Wednesday. Platini's charity is not boundless.

By something of an irony, Cantona was asked to comment on France's World Cup 1994 eliminating draw, which pits them against Israel, Sweden (who could well be met in the summer), Bulgaria and Finland.

Cantona, all unaware of the clouds of doom gathering, said: "It's a very good draw, since we have avoided Holland and Yugoslavia." Yugoslavia? They may not be participating at all!

"But I am mistrustful by nature." You can say that again!

"Whoever the opponent might be, it is best to take all of them seriously. Even Finland, even Israel! Many things can change between now and the start of the eliminating tournament.

"The example of Austria, at this level, is relevant. In the World Cup in Italy, the Austrians had a fine team. Since then, they have been struggling. But it is a footballing country, and who knows if tomorrow a new generation won't pick up the torch, and show itself worthy of its predecessors?"

Cantona, as you can see, is perfectly rational and intelligent when he so chooses.

Perhaps it is more relevant to say that it's when he doesn't choose, when he's simply carried away, that he betrays his own fine talents. So it looks as if Jean-Pierre Papin won't have Cantona as a partner in Sweden.

Platini has been at pains to emphasise that there will be no breezing through the World Cup eliminators, that even Israel will be testing opponents, that he is glad not to have drawn Turkey (why, after Ireland slaughtered them in Istanbul?) but he is plainly pretty happy with the draw.

When asked if he was glad to avoid the Dutch, he said he didn't care.

Sweden? Platini dismissed the rather banal suggestion that the 4-2 win in Malmo might prove some advantage; it was three years ago, he pointed out, and the Swedish team would have evolved since then. "We shall have a much better idea of what it's worth after the 92 Euro Championship."

The Bulgarians, old foes of France in many a major competition, can field such as Kostadinov, Stoichkov, Balakov and Sirakov, but it still looks a pretty good group for France.

Sound

Apparently there won't be any Britons at all, at the court of King Bernard Tapie next season.

We already know Waddle will be on his way for a "bargain" million come the end of the season, while Steven, who cost still more than Waddle at over £5 million, probably will be available for three.

Hardly a snip given his age and the fact that, sound player though he be, he has never really been a star, but at such a price it is likely that a club such as Liverpool will come in. Steven should have a good few years in him yet.

Papin will be on his way to Italy, come the end of the season, but hardly to Milan, who besides their three Dutchmen have recently paid a reported £11.5 million for Dejan Savicevic of Red Star and have an option on his clubmate Darko Pancev.

The rumour is that Fabio Capello, the Milan manager, likes Savicevic so much that he may let Ruud Gullit go. In that case, Tapie could swoop. He's already said that if Milan want Papin he wants all three Dutchmen in exchange!

Poor old Brest have gone down the plughole, and I wonder if Nigel Page-Jones is having a quiet little smile about it. It's a good few years since Page-Jones, a Midlander, played left-half and left-back for them, having married a local girl.

She didn't want to move and Brest, very wisely as it now transpired, did not want promotion, fearing it would ruin them. Which in fact it now has.

So Page-Jones, who had some excellent games for Brest in Division Two and in the Cup, against such as Marseille and their famed Swedish right winger, Roger Magnusson, was obliged to forego major League football and play out the rest of his career in the Second Division.

David Ginola has not taken long to find a new club. French international Ginola, who quite overshadowed Paul Gascoigne in the Toulon Under-21 tournament a few years ago, has joined Paris Saint-Germain and doubtless hopes that this will be a more positive Parisian experience than the first time around, when he was with the doomed Matra Racing club.

Ginola admits that he did not previously set Paris alight. But now he says he's married, more mature, and hopeful.

Cantona . . . may never be seen in the blue shirt of France again.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Prosinecki still suffering

WITH the Universal Exhibition in Seville and the Olympic Games in Barcelona on the immediate horizon, Spain steamed into the New Year with all lights blazing — except for some members of the soccer establishment who entered 1992 in reverse gear.

At the head of the New Year's Dishonours list: Robert Prosinecki, who narrowly missed out to Papin in most of the 1991 polls. Yugoslav midfielder Prosinecki was poised to make his comeback for Real Madrid in the local derby against Atletico, but ended up in the operating theatre.

So since arriving in Spain last summer, "Robby" has made only three League and two European appearances for the side managed by his compatriot Raddy Antic.

The culprit: a somewhat peculiar thigh-muscle structure, generating a sequence of injuries.

The Prosinecki case history can be traced back to 1988 when, as a 19-year-old, he suffered two injuries to his left thigh and one to the right.

Although the three injuries kept him out for only six weeks, doctors related the recurring muscle tears with — as is often the case — dental disorders. The dentist said "Try this for thighs" and gave him seven fillings.

In 1989 Prosinecki had a similar run of niggling thigh injuries, ranging from routine knocks to more worrying inflammation. During 1990 he suffered only a couple of painful knocks, thigh-muscle pains in March and an inflamed left hip in September.

Controversial

But he started 1991 with another bout of inflammation described as "muscular fever" by Red Star's doctors, who added that this is a fairly common ailment among players who emerge from winter hibernation to start a second pre-season in January.

With hindsight, many now feel that the ups and downs of his controversial move to Real plus the stresses caused by the war in Yugoslavia combined to produce this freak run of injuries.

He has not been helped by family roots split between Serbia and Croatia, nor by Croatian death threats should he be inclined to add to his 40 caps for Yugoslavia.

Doctors are now so cautious that the only tentative date for his return is April

This prompted Johan Cruyff to opine that Antic was better off without Prosinecki. The comments, which went down like a lead balloon at Real, were part of the psychological warfare following Real's 2-0 defeat (their first of the season) by Atletico, with goals by Vizcaino and Manolo.

Real having dropped a home point to Oviedo, were — according to Cruyff — in deep crisis and playing poor football. Barcelona, now only five points behind, were back in the hunt.

Antic replied by bringing back Hugo Sanchez after his eight-month absence, and the team beat Burgos 4-0 in the Spanish Cup and Osasuna 5-2 in the League.

Ironically, Barcelona produced poor performances, losing 2-0 to Valencia in the Cup and scraping a 2-1 home win over Valladolid, who had two players sent off and had arrived without Colombian keeper Rene Higuita.

After four months of mixing forgivable eccentricities with unforgivable howlers, the World Cup goalkeeper could take no more barracking and simply flew home.

Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez promptly declared their desire to follow suit and their nerves got the better of them in Barcelona, where both were dismissed for protesting the validity of the home side's opening goal.

There was another reverse-gear start to 1992 at Espanol. In a desperate attempt to put a reeling ship on an even keel, they brought back their former midfielder, Urbano, after eight years at Barcelona, and spent £1.5m on bringing three Russians out of hibernation.

Dimitri Galyamin and Igor Korneev were signed from the last Soviet champions, CSKA Moscow, and Andrei Mokh was bought from Spartak.

This meant curtains for the foreigners already on the books — the German Wolfram Wuttke, the Yugoslav Dusan Mijic and the Argentine striker Alfaro Moreno. Wuttke has left; the other two are on ice but stay on the payroll.

And Espanol dropped to last place when they lost 1-0 to Mallorca.

The holiday-isle club also reversed into 1992. The president, Miguel Contesti, had had four resignation attempts thwarted by the board before he eventually quit, after 14 years in charge.

He took the club from the Third Division to the First, and Mallorca were the beaten finalists in last season's Spanish Cup.

But facilities at the Luis Sitjar Stadium remain primitive enough to drive Lord Justice Taylor to desperation and the club's limited funds have not been spent on producing a balanced squad.

In the meantime, Barcelona were putting together a run that took them — after that eventful Valladolid game — into second place ahead of Atletico.

Michael Laudrup, who agreed to a new two-year contract, has been playing the best football of his career and his scoring rate has hit new heights.

Cruyff, however, has rocked the boat by agreeing to coach the Dutch national team should Holland qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals. "But not before," he specifies, "not even in the direst of emergencies."

He had earlier confirmed that Ajax striker Dennis Bergkamp "will consult with me before taking any decision on his future."

He thus seems to have scotched rumours that he had offered Marseille £5.5m plus Hristo Stoichkov for Jean-Pierre Papin.

Publicly at least, Cruyff shows only lukewarm enthusiasm for Papin, European Footballer of the Year.

"All right, he has scored a lot of goals and he has had a good year," says Cruyff.

"But technically he is nothing out of this world and he has played only in Belgium and France."

NOW for the monthly report on What JESUS GIL did Next.

Gil still complaining

Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil spent the New Year locked in battle with the Football League and the television companies, threatening to ban the cameras from the derby unless Atletico received the same rake-off as Real and Barcelona in the annual share-out of TV fees.

Under the current contract, the "mattress-makers" are slotted into Category 2 alongside Valencia and Bilbao, which gives them £1million a year less than the Big Two.

At the same time Gil was appealing against the one-match closure of the Manzanares Stadium, provoked by a thrown beer can that cut the referee's lip during the disastrous 3-0 home defeat by Sevilla. The appeal failed, but at least allowed the derby to be played in Madrid.

Worse still, the Disciplinary Committee announced a six-month "suspension from all presidential functions" following Gil's latest verbal mugging of a referee.

As a result, the emergency meeting called to examine the TV payments structure was attended by acting president Jesus Gil — his son. Mothers' maiden names have to be drafted in to differentiate between the two, leaving the father as Jesus Gil y Gil and the son as Jesus Gil Marin.

Atletico's declared debts of around £15m and cash-flow problems, which have delayed payments of staff wages, have not deterred Gil Senior from presenting a £22m project to build 140 luxury suites, 12 squash courts, bar, restaurant, solarium, gym and dance floors in towers which would fill the unbuilt corner sections of the stand nearest the River Manzanares.

The team seem to have been infected by the same contrasts between rags and riches.

The victory over Real provoked euphoric talk of the title, immediately stifled by a grim Cup performance in Oviedo and a 1-0 League defeat in Logrones.

That left Luis Aragones and his team under direct threat from Zaragoza, where young coach Victor Fernandez is building a solid reputation, and from Valencia, where former PSV coach Guus Hiddink is getting his act together after a transitional phase.

At least someone started 1992 on the right foot.

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

JENEI TAKES OVER AT THE TOP

EMERICH JENEI, who coached Romania to the 1990 World Cup finals, has been appointed manager of Hungary. Mircea Sandu, chairman of the Romanian Soccer Federation, said that Jenei had signed a one-year contract which could be extended; the Hungarians regard him as being in charge of the national team throughout the 1994 World Cup qualifying rounds.

Jenei was born in Arad, Romania, just over Hungary's south-east border in March 1937, and is a self-confident, calm, knowledgeable man, a Merited Master of Sport in Romania and a Professor of Physical Education.

He had extensive playing and coaching experience at youth and senior level, before managing Steaua Bucharest to four League titles and to become the first eastern European team to win the Champions' Cup in 1986. Six months later the team beat Kiev Dynamo 1-0 in the European Super Cup in Monaco.

Jenei was then appointed manager of Romania's national team and their qualification for the second round of the World Cup finals in Italy was the best the country had achieved in this competition. It also was the catwalk upon which several players displayed their skill for cheque-waving western European clubs.

He says that his job will be as hard as it was when he managed Romania, when he experienced problems because of his Hungarian background. He has some knowledge of Hungarian players, having helped Debrecen at the end of the 1990-91 season.

Climaxed

Peter Lipcsei, the Ferencvaros prodigy, was the MLSZ's Player of the Year. The award climaxed an outstanding spell for this genuine prospect whose 20th birthday is not until March 28 . . . perhaps he and Jenei will have a joint party!

He was the only player to start all six internationals in the autumn season when the foreign-based players, except for Gyorgy Bognar, were absent from the two-match tour of South America.

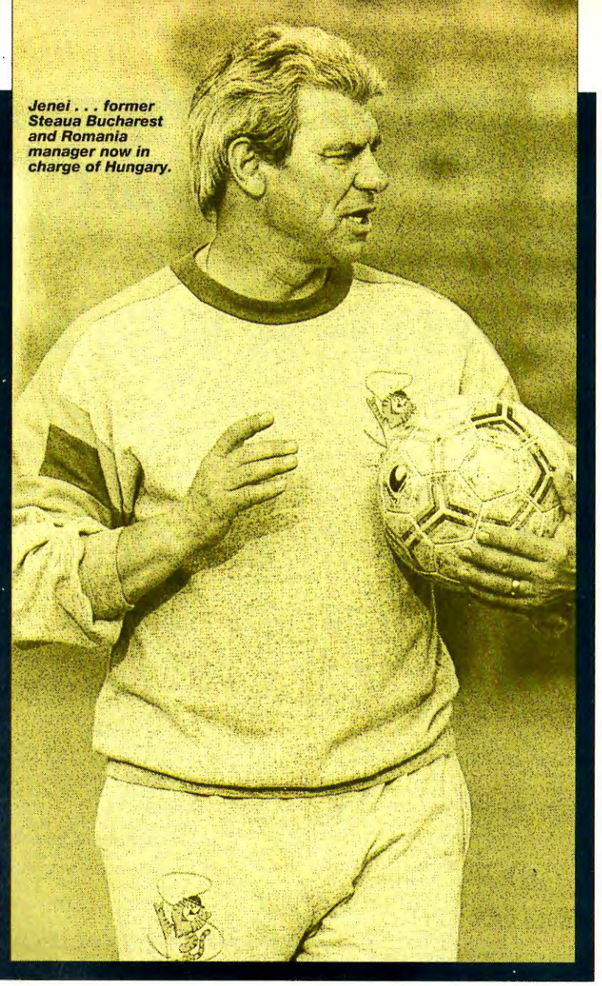
Robert Glazer completed his caretaker mission by giving some match experience to 17 players at some stage of the 3-0 defeat in Mexico and the 1-1 draw with El Salvador.

Glazer, the Raba Gyor coach, gave debuts to Zoltan Vegh, the 20-year-old goalkeeper from the same club, Ferenc Orosz, the 22-year-old Vac forward and goal-king of the autumn season, Ferenc Hamori (MTK-VM, 19) Zoltan Balog (Pecs, 24) and Andras Zombori (Vac, 26).

All except Vegh first appeared only as substitutes, Hamori scoring the goal in El Salvador, his second appearance.

Others to make their debuts under Glazer were Florian Urban (Gyor, 23) and Bela Illes (Haladas, also 23). A list of never-will-be non-entities?

That is what the Steaua players were before Jenei helped to bring the best out of them.



Jenei . . . former Steaua Bucharest and Romania manager now in charge of Hungary.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

BESIKTAS STILL ON COURSE

BESIKTAS made one of the shrewdest moves in Turkish soccer history when they took on former England and Liverpool midfielder Gordon Milne as coach.

In almost five years of Milne management, the club have won 101 League games out of 152, lost only 13, scored 319 goals and had one spell of 44 weeks unbeaten.

Milne's team were second in 1988 and 1989, then won the title in each of the last two seasons, and are on course for a hat-trick.

Challenger

They led by four points from Fenerbahce, with Galatasaray third another two points back.

Feyyaz of Besiktas and Aykut of Fenerbahce were joint top scorers with 13 goals each. Tanju, Fenerbahce's record signing from Galatasaray, was next with eight.

Besiktas also have the best disciplinary record with only 13 bookings at the season's halfway mark, after 15 games.

Milne, however, had a strong challenger for the Manager of the Year title — Serpil Hamdi Tuzun, who is in charge of the national youth team.

They have qualified for the European Youth Championship finals, to be held in Germany in July, and topped their group without losing a game.

Galatasaray's Tugay Kerimoglu has been the year's outstanding player. He is a left-sided midfielder, only 21 but with vast experience, having represented his country 60 times at various levels.

Kerimoglu has six full caps, and has played for the Under-21 team, the Olympic selection and the Army.

Voting for the outstanding 11 of the season to date resulted in the following selection: Hayrettin (Galatasaray), Ismail (Galatasaray), Mujdat (Fenerbahce), Amani (Aydin), Kadir (Besiktas), Riza (Besiktas), Gerson (Fenerbahce), Mehmet (Besiktas), Tugay (Galatasaray), Feyyaz (Besiktas) and Aykut (Fenerbahce). All are Turkish apart from Amani (Algerian) and Gerson (Brazilian).

The second half of the season starts on February 8.

Kerimoglu . . . outstanding midfielder.

UKRAINE BY VLADIMIR KALINKOVIC

UKRAINE have followed Georgia down the road to independence. The federation will run their own tournaments from next month.

The Ukraine is one of the biggest republics in what used to form the Soviet Union, with about 50 professional football clubs and about 120,000 youth players as well as many amateur clubs.

One of the biggest problems concerns the retention of leading professionals, who are naturally concerned about the future.

Georgia and Lithuania have lost many leading players to other European countries, and the UFF are considering a proposal that a minimum transfer fee, one million American dollars, should apply to all transfers to other nations.

Consists

The suggestion was put forward by Victor Bannikov, former Kiev 'keeper, and now UFF president.

The new Ukrainian Supreme League consists of two groups of 20 clubs, and the winners will meet in the Ukrainian Championship final. There are two other divisions, of 26 and 20 clubs.

June is the finishing point for the first part of the season, and the second part will be staged in the autumn.

All Ukrainian-born players are eligible for selection in the Commonwealth of Independent Nations squad going to the European Championships.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Betting scandal— EIGHT ARRESTED

GERMAN football has been shaken by the biggest betting scandal in history, and eight men who organised an illegal betting ring have been arrested.

No players or managers were among them, but footballers and coaches have been betting on matches, though it is not suspected that results had been manipulated.

Privately-organised betting on football is illegal in Germany. According to law it can be undertaken only through the licenced State-run pool (called Toto), or lotteries (known as Lotto). All other forms of gambling for gain are forbidden.

The police raided the club offices of First Division SG Wattenscheid and Schalke 04 looking for documentary proof.

Criminal

Investigations are continuing and some criminal proceedings seem certain against those running illegal betting shops.

The winter break began with Borussia Dortmund proudly at the top, after 22 out of 38 matches had been played.

Before the season began few would bet on the Dortmunder as champions, but last year nobody would have predicted that Kaiserslautern would become "Meister". The difference is that right up to the decisive stage only the local diehards believed in their "Lauterer", while Borussia are being taken very seriously by their rivals.

"We don't have to win the championship, but it is imperative that we qualify for a European competition," says their team manager, Ottmar Hitzfeld, who took over last July after nine successful years in Switzerland with SC Zug, Aarau and Grasshoppers.

Hitzfeld succeeded Horst Koppel and is turning Borussia into a championship outfit, but remains modest: "We are not yet ready for the highest honours. We are too young."

His mainstays include Michael Rummenigge, younger brother of Karl-Heinz of Bayern Munich fame.

He has made the biggest step forward under the new manager, yet he used to be unhappy and was always complaining. Now he has developed into a personality.

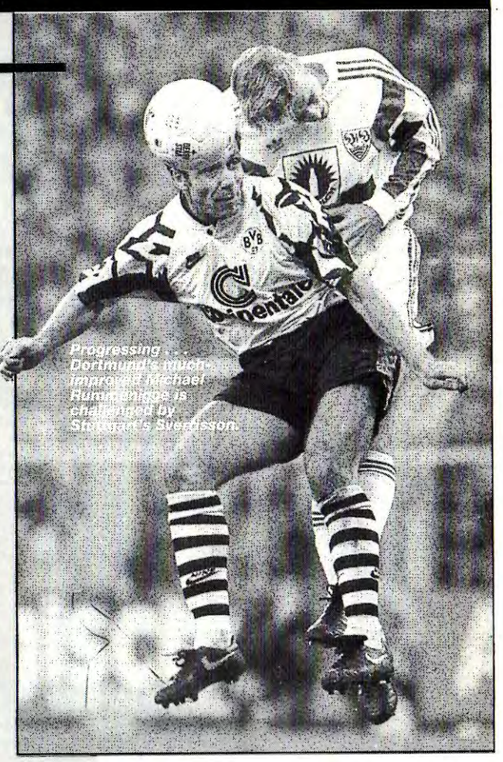
Thomas Helmer is a classy sweeper and a member of the national squad, and Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat is joint top scorer in the Bundesliga with 11 goals. Borussia will now pay the £860,000 fee demanded by Bayer Uerdingen, who had let him go on loan.

The rest of the team are mostly talented young players who need only more consistency.

The media are unanimous in their praise: "Borussia impress with their skill, ideas, dynamism, harmony, self-confidence, will to win and tactical cleverness".

And the fans are delighted; Borussia's average gate is 40,685, and only Schalke attract more.

Most players had a brief holiday over Christmas and New Year, but were soon back training, embarking on the usual foreign tours, and becoming engaged in indoor tournaments as preparation for the remaining part of the season. This will end earlier than usual, in mid-May, because of the European Championship.



Progressing . . . Dortmund's much-improved Michael Rummenigge is challenged by Stuttgart's Sverdsson.

Muller's now a scout

ONE of Germany's all-time greats, Gerd Muller, was recently discharged from a rehabilitation clinic for alcoholics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The 46-year-old Muller, who scored 68 goals in 62 internationals, says: "Last year was the most depressing period of my life. At times I didn't know where I was.

"My problems were compounded by two business failures. The restaurant and sports shop fell victims to tough competition. But I was badly advised by so-called friends. When my wife and daughter wouldn't put up with me, I felt abandoned and had nobody to turn to."

Bayern Munich are helping their former star to get back on his feet. Muller is now employed as a scout watching games and players of interest to the club.

Eventually he will try to obtain a coaching licence, so that he can take over as youth manager.

Muller explains: "I want to make a fresh start and I'm very grateful to Bayern for giving me the chance. I will do my best to repay their faith in me and intend to make a career in coaching."

He is now living alone in an apartment in Munich, and claims that his drink problems are over.

But his wife, who still occupies the matrimonial home, is insisting on divorce proceedings going through.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Apollon still set the pace

APOLLON, so often among the strugglers, are top of the table and looking capable of staying there.

Not before time — the club, formed in 1891, have not won a single major honour.

Their biggest success this surprising season was the 2-1 defeat of Panathinaikos in the Olympic Stadium, their first away win over the current champions for 33 years.

"To all those who doubted that Apollon should be in first place we gave them our answer today," said a happy Apollon coach Christos Arhonditis.

"Our opponents underestimated us, thinking we are a small team. We may not have fan support but we have soul. Panathinaikos and Olympiakos are big teams, but we are fighting to become a big team too."

The top scorer in the League is Apollon's Imre Katsembach, a Hungarian with 10 goals so far. Ironically, Katsembach had been rejected by Panathinaikos during a try-out after he left MTK/VM Budapest two years ago.

"I am not concerned about being top scorer, Apollon is more important, and we are all working hard to win the title," he said.

The other derby the same day as the Panathinaikos-Apollon match was Olympiakos Piraeus at home against PAOK Salonica.

Olympiakos won 3-2 but the match was marred by violence off the pitch, with 44 arrests as hooligans did heavy damage to Karaiskakis Stadium and the surrounding area. There were 26 injuries, including nine policemen.

AEK beat Panserraikos 2-1 at home to keep pace with Apollon and Olympiakos at the top.

There was a sudden rise in attendance figures on that day . Close to 70,000 tickets were sold for the nine matches, the highest figure this season.

But the violence at Olympiakos may keep the fans away again in the future.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

CRUYFF DOES A FINAL DEAL

He'll take over if the team qualify for '94

JOHAN CRUYFF has agreed to manage the Dutch team if they qualify for the finals of the 1994 World Cup.

He will only take charge at the tournament, after another coach, probably Dick Advocaat, has managed Holland in the qualifying matches.

Like France under Platini and Germany under Beckenbauer, Holland will have their best-ever player as their manager. The public and most players are excited and delighted.

Cruyff claimed he can combine the job with his task as a club manager, but Barcelona president Josep Lluis Nunez reacted furiously when he heard about the deal with the Dutch FA . . . especially as he learned the news from the press. His manager, who earns £1.4 million a year after tax, had neglected to inform him.

Cruyff's contract with Barcelona runs until the summer of 1993, and he was expected to start negotiations soon to stay at the club.

Nunez said: "I'm not going to negotiate with people who already have their future planned out", but Cruyff said he had planned to tell Nunez about his second job, and explained: "It's not my fault there are journalists who find out about the news so quickly."

He has yet to sign a contract with the Dutch FA, but says he will do the job as long as Holland qualify for the World Cup "and if I am still alive" — a horrible joke about his heart surgery last year.

"I have agreed to coach for a maximum of six to eight weeks," he adds. "I feel that is long enough. I don't want the new job to harm my work at Barcelona."

The last three times Holland qualified for the World Cup they appointed a new coach for the tournament itself: in 1974 Rinus Michels was brought in from Barcelona, in 1978 it was Ernst Happel, and in 1990 Leo Beenhakker.

The Dutch hope that Cruyff will be able to restore Holland's flair and attacking football of 1988. The team bored the public in their qualifying matches for the European Championships, and Martin van Rooijen, chairman of the Dutch FA, said: "The side have achieved great results, but without playing brilliantly. Winning is good, but not good enough.

"In America we want a manager who will win and play attractive football."

Cruyff's faith is in total football and he has turned Barcelona into probably the most attack-minded of Europe's big sides. Often they play with four forwards.

The appointment came despite Cruyff's long history of conflict with the Dutch FA. As a player he was sent off in his second match for Holland, and once flew to Italy to buy shoes for a shop he was setting up when the squad was in training camp.

The players asked the FA to let Cruyff manage Holland in the 1990 World Cup, but Rinus Michels appointed Leo Beenhakker instead.

Cruyff was incensed and Beenhakker proved a disaster, so after the World Cup public pressure forced Michels to ask Cruyff to manage the team. His work at Barcelona meant he had to refuse, and Michels appointed himself.

He is retiring after the European Championships and suggested his assistant, Dick Advocaat, as his successor, but this time the Dutch FA ignored him and approached Cruyff.

Cruyff has hinted that he would like to manage the Dutch in Sweden too, but Paul Boels of the FA said this was "out of the question". Michels would hardly let his rival steal his last event.

Cruyff often talks about reorganising the Dutch FA, firing a lot of coaches he dislikes, but he seems to have given up that plan in order to get the job he covets. A relieved Van Rooijen said: "Johan would love to manage our current generation. He sounded very reasonable."

The appointment may persuade key players to prolong their international careers. Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Ronald Koeman may now decide to continue playing for Holland until the World Cup. Van Basten in particular adores Cruyff, and all now believe that this great Dutch generation can win a World Cup after all.

Ajax star Dennis Bergkamp said: "Johan, more than anyone else, can prepare a team for a special match in a very short time. He proved that in Ajax's European matches."

But Bobby Robson of PSV voiced doubts: "Managing a national team demands a lot from you. I think Cruyff can only manage Holland if he leaves Barcelona."

The race for the Dutch championship is close.

PSV, unbeaten in their first 20 matches, finally lost their unbeaten record in Amsterdam — losing 1-0 to Ajax. This leaves them one point ahead of Feyenoord, who had played 22, and three clear of Ajax.

Brazilian striker Romario returned to the PSV side in January, after a long injury, and immediately scored two to help beat Sparta 4-1. The team had been faltering somewhat, and the brilliant but difficult Brazilian is the man they need.

Feyenoord are the surprise of the past year. They have recovered from the crisis of the past seven years and can now hope for the championship, the Dutch Cup and the Cup-winners' Cup.

Chairman Amandus Lundqvist said the stars of 1991 were "Norman Schwarzkopf and Wim Jansen". Jansen is Feyenoord's technical director, who has coached the side for most of this season, as manager Hans Dorjee had heart problems.

Lundqvist might have mentioned a third star: young winger Gaston Taument. His greatest day was Feyenoord's 2-0 victory over Ajax in front of 50,000 people. "Taument-Ajax 2-0", as one headline put it.

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

Benfica hit a bad patch

JUST as Arsenal were deluded after their draw at Estadio da Luz, so were Benfica despite their brilliant 3-1 victory at Highbury.

Since that unforgettable evening of majestic football, the Lisbon Eagles have not produced anything consistent with their ambitions and the demands of their traditions.

Having lost in Kiev and drawn at home against Barcelona, the Portuguese champions lost the chance of again becoming the masters of European football. This, however, could be understood, given the class and the determination of the opposition, were it not for the abysmal performances and results in the domestic League.

Controversial

Take some recent games: Uniao da Madeira 0 Benfica 1, victory only by a controversial last-minute penalty; Benfica 1 Penafiel 1; Salgueiros 1, Benfica 1; and in the Cup, Vitoria Setubal 0 Benfica 0 — Vitoria being a Second Division team.

These exceedingly poor results have removed Benfica from the leadership of the League, which is now headed by FC Porto, a much more consistent and determined team. What, then, has gone wrong?

I watched Benfica in the above-mentioned games and their attitude is quite simple.

They only need to be there and show the red shirts in the hope that the opposition becomes terrified and allows itself to be conquered; they only need to dance with the ball from midfield to defence and back to midfield, everything seeming so easy and smooth but, in truth, so tedious and utterly unproductive. The web of passes leads nowhere.

The illusion that the adversaries will surrender or make a couple of mistakes is all Benfica play for.

They are not attacking, they are not creating any danger, and they are not scoring.

Benfica are not drawing the crowds as before and grounds which used to be filled whenever they used to play are now half empty.

The untalented chain of passes with no direct consequences can only make people disbelieve what happened at Highbury last November. Was it a dream?

Naturally, people are again asking for coach Eriksson's head, something they have been doing for quite a long time in a campaign of resentment against tactics and his cold, studious and far from attractive approach.

He had been given a new lease of life after Highbury, but it is hard to see how he is going to resist the pressure.

Declining . . . Benfica have been in poor form recently, as demonstrated during the 1-1 home draw with modest Penafiel (above).

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSELLE

ANDERLECHT SIGN VERSAVEL

ANDERLECHT, on course for another championship, brought off a signing that should improve their hopes still further.

They signed midfielder Bruno Versavel, Mechelen's star player, for £1 million over five years.

The champions have also persuaded coach Aad de Mos to sign a two year contract extension.

More good results kept Anderlecht on top of the table, with a 0-0 draw away to Standard being followed by a 3-1 victory in Gent and a 2-0 home victory over Antwerp.

Consecutive

Standard had gone four months without defeat — losing 2-1 at home to Club Brugge on the opening day, back in August, was their sole reverse. But they have had too many draws to reach top spot.

Mechelen's international goalkeeper, Michel Preud'homme, has set a League record of 121 consecutive appearances. He has not missed a match since May 1988.

Congratulations to Gent, who reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup by beating Moscow Dynamo.

A 2-0 lead from the first leg was successfully defended in a goalless draw in Moscow, although the Soviets did nothing to help themselves: striker Derkach was sent off in the second minute.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Levski may make a change

THE CUP matches just before the complete closedown for the winter break saw the great and famous struggle in the first leg.

Levski only managed a draw with Second Division Dorostoi, and CSKA could do no better at Dobrodja.

Only Lok Sofia look certain of qualifying for the quarter-finals, after a 4-1 win over Belasitsa, another Second Division team. Elsewhere results were so close as to leave doubt all over until part two is complete.

Revamping

Meanwhile clubs have been revamping their squads for the spring half of the season and turning to indoor soccer.

CSKA will have former internationals Kirov and Bezinski back from their foreign travels in the Norwegian and Portuguese leagues respectively, have signed Dranganov from Lok Plovdi, and are hot on the trail of Sofia rivals Lok's highly-rated schemer Metkov.

Levski, on the other hand, have problems with off-the-field staff. Coach Dermendiev has made demands the club will not entertain, and the directors are talking again to Pavel Panev. Despite his dismissal for not delivering the goods last time round he looks likely to be reappointed, unless a decision is made in favour of Ivan Vutsov.

Yantra also have manager problems. The club thanked Doychev for his services at Christmas but have yet to make a new appointment from candidates such as Markov, in charge of the Bulgarian under-21 squad, or Grenoble player-manager Anguelov. Paying for the release of one or the other may prove a problem.

The Footballer of the Year is Hristo Stoichkov of Barcelona, for the third successive time, equalling the 20-year-old record set by Christo Bonev. Stoichkov polled 116 votes, 11 more than Sirakov, with Velinov third.

Surprisingly there were only six internationals among the first ten.

The presidents of the 36 Bulgarian professional clubs met over ten days, aiming to implement the decisions taken in June.

They were able to confirm the disastrous financial state of the game and decided to take up the question of tax and sponsorship with the government.

Television, transfers and income there from also were high on the agenda.

How much real progress there was remains to be seen, but at least a step towards founding a professional league were agreed. A Council of Club Presidents was set up, with 11 members, and CSKA's Mihov and Levski's Lavtchis as co-chairmen. Whether this is the best format is another question.

One thing is certain. The league resumes on February 22.

Vutsov . . . wanted by Levski.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Macala may rely on youth

A BETTER year than expected for the CSFR ended with a narrow defeat in Brazil but before then the national team could be proud of their 1991 record — two defeats in 11 matches, though critically they were both 2-1 in the European Championship qualifiers .

If the three wins in the Far East and Australasia are subtracted, Macala's record looks less impressive, and more will be expected of him and his squad when the World Cup groups begin.

Two out of CSFR, Belgium, Romania and Wales look likely to go through, with Cyprus and the Faroe Isles making up the numbers.

Meanwhile the Czech build-up is on for the return friendly with England in March. One question to be resolved is whether Macala recalls the old guard from abroad or gives youth a chance.

Reasonable

For the game with Brazil, Miklosko (West Ham) and Skuravy (Genoa) were the only "Legionaires" present.

Whether Hapal, the Olomouc playmaker, will still be with the Moravian club looks doubtful. Sigma will not want him to go before the ties with Real, but everything has its price.

Sparta's narrow defeat in Barcelona and points from the second European "league tie" was a reasonable start to the six-match semi-final campaign, but probably will not be enough.

Sigma also have an almost impossible task, but who would have dared tip them to oust Hamburg?

Now that the club have reached the big time in Europe and established themselves in the national league, manager Karel Brueckner's problems may be only beginning. Expectations have risen greatly, and hanging on to local products is proving difficult.

A small capacity restricts income, and more than 15,000 will wish to see the Real quarter-final in March. Moving the game to Prague or Bratislava is not an alternative fans would tolerate, but it might double the attendance.

Action from Sparta Prague's 3-2 defeat in Barcelona.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

LECH had a two-point lead over Katowice at the winter break, and had the Footballer of the Year — Juskowiak, top scorer in the autumn part of the season.

Andrzej Juskowiak, who was chosen by the readers of the Silesian daily, *Sport*, is in his fourth season at Lech and has played in 86 League games and scored 40 goals, 18 of them last season.

But Poland manager Strejlau has selected him only once, giving preference to foreign stars. The Silesian public view him more positively. In the poll, internationals Urban (Osasuna) and Furtok (Hamburg) were left in Juskowiak's wake.

In another poll, among the scribes of the official weekly *Football*, most voted for Zaglebie Lubin's Czachowski, so you pays your money and takes your choice!

On a more important theme, the FA are taking action on the modernisation of grounds, which visitors for international matches would agree is long overdue.

Regularly

Progress is reported from Lubin, Poznan and Katowice as the authorities strive to reach the new UEFA standards.

Much needs to be done, especially if a ground such as Lech's in Poznan is to host internationals regularly.

Facilities, also are lacking at the Slask in Chorzow, let alone at the under-21 venues chosen in recent times. How a European Championship qualifying game can be awarded to a ground with terrace accommodation similar to a non-league ground in London is difficult to understand.

On the credit side, the Polish FA have elected Kazimierz Gorski as president and got on with the important job of setting up a Committee to raise money to finance soccer's development.

Talent is not lacking, as the success of the under-18 side in qualifying for the European Championship Final shows. And the under-21s won all six matches, to enter the quarter-finals.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

HODGSON SWAPS WITH STIELIKE

FOR the first time in modern history the national team acquired a British manager.

Roy Hodgson, 44, who is relatively unknown in his own country, and was only a modest player with Crystal Palace and Maidstone United, made his name as a coach in Sweden where he led Halmstad and Malmo to League and Cup triumphs.

But his subsequent appointment at Xamax Neuchatel in Switzerland did not meet with general approval. He did not have a happy relationship with president and virtual owner Gilbert Facchinetti, especially after he apparently negotiated a move to Grasshoppers last summer.

Rebuilt

Now, as national manager, he is conscious of some opposition from the traditionalists who fear that he is still relatively raw in Swiss football and does not understand the mentality of players whose origins are mostly Latin and Germanic.

The Swiss officials were hoping to persuade the former international Umberto Barberis to accept the job, but he is staying with Lausanne.

One of Hodgson's tasks is to continue the fine work began by Uli Stielike, who has replaced him at Xamax.

For the first time the Swiss squad will not have to be rebuilt from scratch. The present bunch are young and should serve the country for a long time.

Hodgson has announced that he will play with four defenders in a line, without a libero, as favoured in Germany.

ALBANIA BY GEZIM NUSHI

Down to rock bottom

THE continuing political unrest in the country is having an extremely sad effect on football.

Dozens of players have joined the emigrants from the country, and a recent decision by the Albanian Football Federation — to play all championship matches on neutral grounds — has had dire results.

Safety of players and spectators must be paramount, but some games have been played in front of hundreds rather than thousands.

There have ben many protests, but the AFF have now decided that the second half of the season, after the winter break, also must be contested on neutral grounds.

Runaway

The title race seems as good as over at halfway, with Vllaznia Shkodra runaway leaders by eight points, plus a massive goal difference.

Vllaznia had won 11 and drawn three of their 15 games, scoring 33 goals and conceding eight. Partizan Tirana, in second place, had a 6-5-4 balance sheet, with their goals: 16-11.

The clubs from places two to 14 were separated by only four points, followed by Kastrioti on nine and Skenderbeu last on six.

Defending champions Flamurtari would have been second, with 20 points, but for having six deducted after their walk-off in protest at a referee's decision early in the season.

There was some consolation for Flamurtari in the Supercup, when they beat the Cup-holders, Partizan, by the only goal.

CYPRUS BY MICHAEL RAPHAEL

FOR the first time in history Cyprus may finish off the bottom in a European Group table for any qualifying competition, World or European.

In an otherwise financially unattractive group, the inclusion of the Faroe Islands team, fresh from their World Cup successes, gives the Cypriots chances of avoiding what in the past would have been inevitable.

Such is the optimism that national manager Andreas Michaelides has voluntarily put his head "under the axe" if his side finish bottom of the group.

Returned

APOEL of Nicosia, victims of several controversial refereeing decisions this season, returned to the top after their 2-1 victory over leaders Anorthosis. Goals by Yiannos Ioannou and Andros Soteriou cancelled out an earlier strike by Nigerian Mike Obijou.

With defending champions Apollon and Cup-holders Omonia slowly catching up, everything points to the most exciting campaign for years.

The introduction of three points for a win also is responsible for the "goal bonanza" during the first half of the championship. In 91 matches 292 goals were scored, an average of 3.2 per game.

TRANSFER LIST

Player	Pos	From	To
Clive ALLEN	A	Manchester City	Chelsea
Anatoli DEMNIANENKO	D	Magdeburg	Widzew Lodz
Giuseppe DOSSENA	M	Sampdoria	Perugia
Frank FARINA	F	Bari	Fenerbahce
Vl FLORIJANIC	M	Rijeka	Cremonese
Robert CYRON	F	Gornik Zabrze	Hamburg
Robert JARNI	D	Hajduk Split	Bari
Uwe RAHN	F	Hertha Berlin	Borussia Mg
Ion STELEA	G	Dinamo Bucharest	Mallorca
Michael THOMAS	M	Arsenal	Liverpool
Carlos VALDERRAMA	M	Valladolid	Ind. Medellin
Wim VAN DER ARK	F	Aberdeen	Utrecht
Jan WOUTERS	M	Ajax	Bayern Munich
Rashid YEKINI	F	Vitoria Setubal	Sochaux

UPDATED SPANISH FIXTURES

5 JANUARY
Mallorca v Barcelona
Espanol v Burgos
Sociedad v Albacete
Zaragoza v La Coruna
Oviedo v Logrones
At Madrid v Real Madrid
Osasuna v Gijon
Valencia v Sevilla
Tenerife v Athletic Bilbao
Cadiz v Valladolid

12 JANUARY
Mallorca v Espanol
Burgos v Sociedad
Albacete v Zaragoza
La Coruna v Oviedo
Logrones v At Madrid
Real Madrid v Osasuna
Gijon v Valencia
Sevilla v Tenerife
Athletic Bilbao v Cadiz
Barcelona v Valladolid

19 JANUARY
Barcelona v Espnaol
Sociedad v Mallorca
Zaragoza v Burgos
Oviedo v Albacete
At Madrid v La Coruna
Osasuna v Logrones
Valencia v Real Madrid
Tenerife v Gijon
Cadiz v Sevilla
Valladolid v Athletic Bilbao

26 JANUARY
Espanol v Sociedad
Mallorca v Zaragoza
Burgos v Oviedo
Albacete v At Madrid
La Coruna v Osasuna
Logrones v Valencia
Real Madrid v Tenerife
Gijon v Cadiz
Sevilla v Valladolid
Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona

2 FEBRUARY
Sevilla v Athletic Bilbao
Gijon v Valladolid
Real Madrid v Cadiz
Logrones v Valencia
Albacete v Osasuna
Burgos v At Madrid
Mallorca v Oviedo
Espanol v Zaragoza
Sociedad v Barcelona

9 FEBRUARY
Barcelona v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Gijon
Valladolid v Real Madrid
Cadzi v Logrones
Tenerife v La Coruna
Valencia v Albacete
Osasuna v Burgos
At Madrid v Mallorca
Oviedo v Espanol
Zaragoza v Sociedad

16 FEBRUARY
Gijon v Sevilla
Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Logrones v Valladolid
La Coruna v Cadiz
Albacete v Tenerife
Burgos v Valencia
Mallorca v Osasuna
Espanol v At Madrid
Sociedad v Oviedo
Zaragoza v Barcelona

23 FEBRUARY
Barcelona v Gijon
Sevilla v Real Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Logrones
Valladolid v La Coruna
Cadiz v Albacete
Tenerife v Burgos
Valencia v Mallorca
Osasuna v Espanol
At Madrid v Sociedad
Oviedo v Zaragoza

1 MARCH
Real Madrid v Gijon
Logrones v Sevilla
La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao
Albacete v Valladolid
Burgos v Cadiz
Mallorca v Tenerife
Espanol v Valencia
Sociedad v Osasuna
Zaragoza v At Madrid
Oviedo v Barcelona

8 MARCH
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Gijon v Logrones
Sevilla v La Coruna
Athletic Bilbao v Albacete
Valladolid v Burgos
Cadiz v Mallorca
Tenerife v Espanol
Valencia v Sociedad
Osasuna v Zaragoza
At Madrid v Oviedo

15 MARCH
Logrones v Real Madrid
La Coruna v Gijon
Albacete v Sevilla
Burgos v Athletic Bilbao
Mallorca v Valladolid
Espanol v Cadiz
Sociedad v Tenerife
Zaragoza v Valencia
Oviedo v Osasuna
At Madrid v Barcelona

22 MARCH
Barcelona v Logrones
Real Madrid v La Coruna
Gijon v Albacete
Sevilla v Burgos
Athletic Bilbao v Mallorca
Valladolid v Espanol
Cadiz v Sociedad
Tenerife v Zaragoza
Valencia v Oviedo
Osasuna v At Madrid

29 MARCH
La Coruna v Logrones
Albacete v Real Madrid
Burgos v Gijon
Mallorca v Sevilla
Espanol v Athletic Bilbao
Sociedad v Valladolid
Zaragoza v Cadiz
Oviedo v Tenerife
At Madrid v Valencia
Osasuna v Barcelona

5 APRIL
Barcelona v La Coruna
Logrones v Albacete
Real Madrid v Burgos
Gijon v Mallorca
Sevilla v Espanol
Athletic Bilbao v Sociedad
Valladolid v Zaragoza
Cadiz v Oviedo
Tenerife v At Madrid
Valencia v Osasuna

12 APRIL
Albacete v La Coruna
Burgos v Logrones
Mallorca v Real Madrid
Espanol v Gijon
Sociedad v Sevilla
Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao
Oviedo v Valladolid
At Madrid v Cadiz
Osasuna v Tenerife
Valencia v Barcelona

19 APRIL
Barcelona v Albacete
La Coruna v Burgos
Logrones v Mallorca
Real Madrid v Espanol
Gijon v Sociedad
Sevilla v Zaragoza
Athletic Bilbao v Oviedo
Valladolid v At Madrid
Cadiz v Osasuna
Tenerife v Valencia

26 APRIL
Burgos v Albacete
Mallorca v La Coruna
Espanol v Logrones
Sociedad v Real Madrid
Zaragoza v Gijon
Oviedo v Sevilla
At Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Osasuna v Valladolid
Valencia v Cadiz
Tenerife v Barcelona

3 MAY
Barcelona v Burgos
Albacete v Mallorca
La Coruna v Espanol
Logrones v Sociedad
Real Madrid v Zaragoza
Gijon v Oviedo
Sevilla v At Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna
Valladolid v Valencia
Cadiz v Tenerife

10 MAY
Mallorca v Burgos
Espanol v Albacete
Sociedad v La Coruna
Zaragoza v Logrones
Oviedo v Real Madrid
At Madrid v Gijon
Osasuna v Sevilla
Valencia v Athletic Bilbao
Tenerife v Valladolid
Cadiz v Barcelona

17 MAY
Barcelona v Mallorca
Burgos v Espanol
Albacete v Sociedad
La Coruna v Zaragoza
LOgrones v Oviedo
Real Madrid v At Madrid
Gijon v Osasuna
Sevilla v Valencia
Athletic Bilbao v Tenerife
Valladolid v Cadiz

24 MAY
Espanol v Mallorca
Sociedad v Burgos
Zaragoza v Albacete
Oviedo v La Coruna
At Madrid v Logrones
Osasuna v Real Madrid
Valencia v Gijon
Tenerife v Sevilla
Cadiz v Athletic Bilbao
Valladolid v Barcelona

31 MAY
Espanol v Barcelona
Mallorca v Sociedad
Burgos v Zaragoza
Albacete v Oviedo
La Coruna v At Madrid
Logrones v Osasuna
Real Madrid v Valencia
Gijon v Tenerife
Sevilla v Cadiz
Athletic Bilbao v Valladolid

7 JUNE
Sociedad v Espanol
Zaragoza v Mallorca
Oviedo v Burgos
At Madrid v Albacete
Osasuna v La Coruna
Valencia v Logrones
Tenerife v Real Madrid
Cadiz v Gijon
Valladolid v Sevilla
Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao

RUSSIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

IVANOV LEAVES TORPEDO

TO SAY that football enjoys a very high priority in the present situation and during the winter break would be absurd, but the daily *Sport Express*, one of the new generation of papers, had time and space to publish a poll of the three best players in the premier class. First Korneyev of CSKA, second Shalimov of Spartak, third Kolyvanov of Moscow Dynamo.

The "Sbornaja" were eighth in the European ratings but maintained fourth place in a survey dating back to 1972.

Where they will be and under which label in a year's time is difficult to forecast, but sports officials in the new Commonwealth seem to be saying they have no objection to players being selected for the Euro finals in Sweden.

A greater problem, both short and long term, is the loss of further top clubs. The Ukrainian teams have withdrawn already, following the Georgians and Lithuania's one representative, Zhalgiris.

One of the most famous and successful of the future Russian League's representatives, Torpedo, had their own crisis, and long-serving manager Valentin Ivanov was replaced by Yevgeny Skromoronko.

Signed

The atmosphere had been tense for months but matters were brought to a head by a letter signed by 14 senior players accusing Ivanov, a monument at Torpedo, of maltreating his team, humiliating them and offending their dignity, among other things. Please remove "Ivan The Terrible!" they cried.

The club committee agreed with the players, voting 8-1 against Ivanov, but the director general of the Zil Motor Works, traditionally the club's sponsor, decided to retain him.

He was persuaded to change his mind only when the players said that "either Ivanov goes or we all go" at the end of the 1991 season. Ivanov has now gone, and we wait to see how Torpedo do when the 1992 Russian League begins.

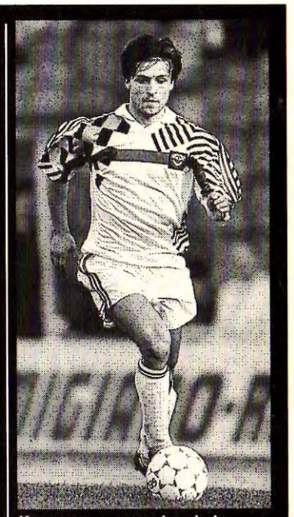
Kiev Dynamo will not be in the same league, in various senses.

On the day the Ukraine became independent, FA president Bannikov appeared on television to tell the nation that in future football would no longer be controlled by Moscow but there would be a Ukrainian Championship, qualifying the winner for Europe, as soon as international recognition is to hand.

Dynamo, in mid-campaign and in the "League" semi-finals, cannot wait that long!

On January 2 the club formally became professional at long last, with President Viktor Bezverkhi at the helm. Much of Dynamo's success in recent time is due to Lobanovski on the bench and the industrialist Bezverkhi at the "Arsenal" military enterprise.

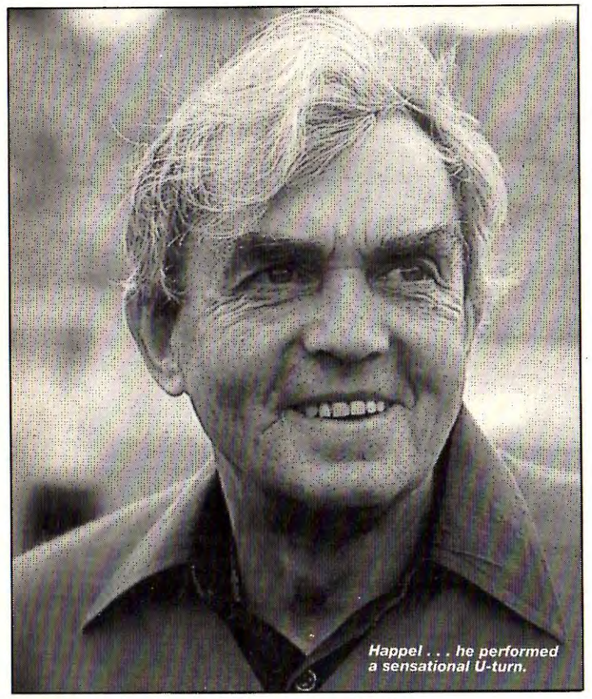
The president, a long-time nationalist but a competent manager, was brought in to football by "Loba". Much of the football club's money was earned by Bezverkhi's handling of transfers.



Korneyev . . . popular choice.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Happel in the hot seat



Happel . . . he performed a sensational U-turn.

ONE of Austria's greatest footballing heroes, Ernst Happel, performed a sensational U-turn — even by his standards — when he accepted the position of national team manager.

Only a few days earlier he announced on television: "Me, national team manager? I am a patriot, but not an idiot."

Next, Austrian FA president Beppo Mauthart presented the wily Happel to the astonished media representatives as the next boss.

Happel, 66, was until then the team chief of FC Tirol and conducted negotiations with two German clubs, whose names he would not divulge, but was persuaded to stay in Austria. Apparently Mauthart "worked" on him for some four years but at last got his man.

Happel, whose 17 trophies make him one of Europe's most successful coaches, said: "Well, Austrian football is at the bottom so it can only get better. We will have a small revolution."

But he warns: "Everybody will have to pull the same string — clubs, coaches and journalists and of course the players."

His engagement will run till the 1994 World Cup, in which the Austrians have been grouped in a tough section with France, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland and Israel.

Happel is under no illusions. As a first directive he demanded that his candidates be assembled together once a month for a three-day training stint. And he wants as many matches as possible against mostly strong opposition.

His debut will take place on 25 March in a friendly in Budapest against Hungary.

Meanwhile his assistant at Tirol, German Horst Hrubesch, had no idea what will happen because his contract was coupled with Happel's. But "The Boss" recommended Hrubesch as a team manager, so everybody is happy now.

The Austrian FA, meantime, are looking for a sponsor to pay Happel's not inconsiderable wages.

ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Cirtu in trouble

THE autumn term ended with trouble in Craiova, when team manager Sorin Cirtu left out 'keeper Florin Prunea, defender Nicolae Zamfir and striker Eugen Neagoe.

He labelled them the scapegoats for the team's poor form, which has resulted in a slide to fourth place.

Little has gone right for the champions this season following early dismissal from Europe — 17 goals in 16 games surprisingly yielded 19 points but the manager is not satisfied, and has accused officials of being behind a campaign to get him the sack.

President Popescu has said that you do not throw out a coach who wins you the double, but stranger things have happened! In their turn the players organised a poll that confirmed Cirtu in his post.

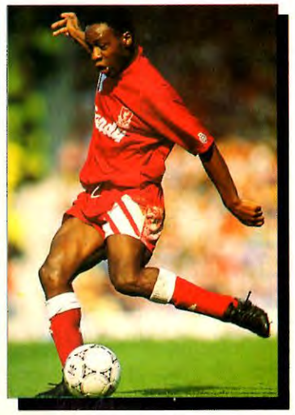
Perhaps the equilibrium can be restored and a UEFA place obtained, though performances will have to be better than at Steaua, where a Dumitrescu goal was enough. Craiova did, however, finish the half-season by beating Arges Pitesti at home, 2-0, with more than something to spare. Perhaps this bodes well for the club as they chase Steaua and Dinamo.

IN NEXT MONTH'S WORLD SOCCER

European Cups update

DOUBLE CLUB FOCUS:

Genoa V Liverpool



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European Championship COUNTDOWN

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Africa

Pele's double take

BY MARK **GLEESON**

WHICHEVER way you look at it, Abedi Pele, from French champions Marseille, is African Footballer of the Year.

He is the first African to win the trophy twice in one year — that is because Africa now has two Footballer of the Year awards.

It was the result of a row between two French magazines, a rather complicated story that really has only one winner — the Ghanaian international himself.

Africa's Footballer of the Year competition — the Ballon d'Or — had traditionally been a collaboration between the magazine *France Football* and Radio France International, whose African service is widely heard on the continent and for whom the journalist Gerard Dreyfus has become the voice of African football. His weekly programme on football has listenership in the millions and thousands of African children are named after him.

Dreyfus has organised the annual poll over the years, overcoming the communications nightmare of contacting at least one football reporter in each of the 47 member countries of the Confederation of African Football.

When the magazine *Afrique Football* was launched in 1988, Dreyfus switched his allegiance and the trophy became a joint collaboration between the radio station and the two magazines.

But last year there was a tiff between the two when *Afrique Football* appeared on the streets, with the result of the poll, ahead of *France Football* and the co-habitation was no more.

Just whose poll now is the more prestigious is the matter of some debate. *France Football* started the award back in 1970 and have the golden ball trophy as their possession. But Dreyfus' vast network of voters switched their allegiance to *Afrique Football*, who now call their trophy the Star of Africa.

In the *Afrique Football* poll, there were votes from 48 countries, including a first for South Africa, back in from the cold. *France Football* had three journalists working on their poll, spending hours trying to contact African counterparts. In the end they managed votes from 41, including one from themselves.

Abedi Pele was a comfortable winner in both — 60 votes ahead of Liberian George Weah in the *Afrique Football* poll and 53 in front in *France Football's*.

Weah's second place in both is about where the similarity ends, and at the same time, is an indication of the Francophone bias of the vote.

His achievements in 1991 were restricted to goalscoring form for his French club and a cup-winners' medal for Monaco. His country did not even play a single international match, wracked as they were by civil war.

Few African-based players did well, the best finish was recorded by Faouzi Rouissi of Club Africain, the recent winners' of the African Champions' Cup. He came seventh; in the *Afrique Football* poll, that is!

1991 African Golden Ball (*France Football*)

1	Abedi Pele	(Marseille, GHANA)	159
2	George Weah	(Monaco, LIBERIA)	106
3	Francois Omam-Biyik	(Cannes, CAMEROON)	52
4	Kalusha Bwalya	(PSV Eindhoven, ZAMBIA)	30
5	Nii Lamptey	(Anderlecht, GHANA)	29
6	Antony Yeboah	(Eintracht Frankfurt, GHANA)	20
7	Roger Mendy	(Monaco, SENEGAL)	18
8	Aboulaye Traore	(ASEC Abidjan, IVORY COAST)	16
9	Youssouf Fofana	(Monaco, IVORY COAST)	14
10 ..	Aziz Bouderbala	(Lyon, MOROCCO)	13

1991 African Golden Star (*Afrique Football*)

1	Abedi Pele	(Marseille, GHANA)	206
2	George Weah	(Monaco, LIBERIA)	146
3	Nii Lamptey	(Anderlecht, GHANA)	68
4	Kalusha Bwalya	(PSV Eindhoven, ZAMBIA)	35
5	Roger Mendy	(Monaco, SENEGAL)	31
6	Faouzi Rouissi	(Club Africain, TUNISIA)	27
7	Francois Omam-Biyik	(Cannes, CAMEROON)	21
8	Abdulaye Traore	(ASEC Abidjan, IVORY COAST)	19
9	Majidi Musisi	(Nakivubo Villa, UGANDA)	17
10 ..	Peter Ndlovu	(Coventry City, ZIMBABWE)	14

'WEAK' ZAMBIA WIN A SENIOR CUP

ZAMBIA got the perfect morale-booster ahead of the African Nations' Cup finals by winning the East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup in Uganda.

Surprisingly that was only the second time that the Zambians had won the tournament, 16 years after their first success.

What made their triumph even more spectacular was that they were without their European-based contingent and the players from Power Dynamos, who were playing in the final of the African Cup-winners' Cup.

Nicholas Bwalya from Roan United scored three goals to finish as the joint top scorer in the tournament. In the absence of Ashlos Melu, David Chabala and Kalusha Bwalya, defender Samuel Chomba captained the team and scored a vital goal in the preliminary rounds as the Zambians sneaked past Zanzibar 3-2.

Zambia were unspectacular in the opening matches, but turned on the charm in the semi-finals, scoring twice in the first five minutes against Sudan and going on to qualify for the final with a 3-2 victory.

Expectations

Against Kenya in the final they left it late, but defender Abeauty Kunda and striker Francis Chisenga scored in the last three minutes to take the trophy back to Lusaka.

Kenya had reason to be pleased with their performance. Against all expectations they beat hosts Uganda in the semi-finals.

Uganda were hoping for a third successive win in the tournament, but could manage only third place.

They pushed the start of the tournament back a week to allow players from Nakivubo Sports Villa to return from their African Champions' Cup final first leg against Club Africain in Tunisia.

Even then the Villa players, still suffering jetlag from a long journey that took them via Rome, did not compete in the opening match against Sudan. Not that it mattered, as Uganda won easily enough in a repeat of the 1990 final.

Uganda then hammered Tanzania 5-0 to qualify for the semi-finals from a group cut down to three countries after the withdrawal of Burundi, who were scheduled to make their debut in the tournament.

Uganda's dreams ended against the Kenyans, but they still remain the most successful competitors in the tournament, with five previous victories.

GROUP A *(Kampala)*
Sudan 1 (Kamal Abdel Khan 89), **Tanzania 1** (George Masatu 73)
Uganda 2 (Jackson Mayanja 33, 43), **Sudan 0**
Uganda 5 (Majidi Musisi 3, Uma Senoga 2), **Tanzania 0**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uganda	2	2	0	0	7	0	4
Sudan	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Tanzania	2	0	1	1	1	6	6

GROUP B *(Mbale)*
Kenya 0, Zambia 1 (Nicholas Bwalya 23)
Malawi 1 (Mavuto Lungu 26), **Zanzibar 0**
Zanzibar 2 (Amani Kombo 52, Abdul Ramadhan 54), **Zambia 3** (Evans Sekala 37, Nicholas Bwalya 55, Samuel Chomba 89)
Kenya 1 (Allan Odhiambo 36), **Malawi 0**
Kenya 3 (Simeon Ndungu 2, Mike Okoth 24, Peter Muholo 38 pen), **Zanzibar 2** (Ubwa Makame 6, Rachid Salum 44)
Malawi 0, Zambia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Kenya	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Malawi	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
Zanzibar	3	0	0	3	4	7	0

SEMI-FINALS *(Kampala)*
Uganda 1 (Robert Alaro 68), **Kenya 3** (Henry Wanyodolo 8, Simeon Ndungu 65, Francis Oduor 70)
Sudan 2 (Khalid Khamal 36, 43), **Zambia 3** (Beston Chambeshi 1, 5, Nicholas Bwalya 39)

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF
(Kampala)
Uganda 3, Sudan 1

FINAL *(Kampala)*
Kenya 0, Zambia 2 (Abeauty Kunda 87, Francis Chisenga 89)

TOP SCORERS: 3 — **Musisi** (Uganda), **Bwalya** (Zambia). **2 — Ndungu** (Kenya), **Kamal** (Sudan), **Mayanja, Senoga** (Uganda), **Chambeshi** (Zambia).

FABULOUS finish seven ahead

BY BABA **KASSIM**

KUMASI Asante Kotoko, lovingly known as Fabulous, are Ghanaian champions. They finished seven points ahead of Hearts of Oak.

Fabulous will be competing in the African Champions' Cup and in the absence of the FA Cup competition, runners-up in the league will be competing in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Hearts however will not represent the country: they have been banned for two years from all international competitions, due to ungentlemanly conduct in their last outing. So their city rivals, Accra Great Olympics, will be in the Cup-winners' competition.

Olympics, known as Dade, are the sleeping giants of Ghanaian soccer. For the past five seasons they have had a galaxy of stars, but internal wranglings made sure that they struggled.

Since joining the elite division in 1978, Real Tamale United have been one of the most consistent clubs, never falling below fourth. Now they will compete in the new CAF Cup.

This was probably the longest season in the championships here. As usual wranglings and threatened law suits characterised the run-in. Second Division Ebusua Dwarfs took their case to the courts and FIFA, losing both.

The familiar outcry and pleadings for freezing the relegation exercise are on. Four clubs are to be relegated and two promoted, with a repeat next season to bring down the number of clubs in the First Division from 16 to 12.

CLUB AFRICAIN MAKE HISTORY

AGHREB dominance of African club football continued with Club Africain's victory in the final of the 1991 African Champions' Cup.

They are the first team from Tunisia to win the continent's premier club competition, but the eighth consecutive victors from an Afro-Arab nation.

Countries south of the Sahara again proved unsuccessful in breaking the stranglehold.

Club Africain beat Nakivulo Sports Villa from Uganda in the final, sewing the match up with a 6-2 win in the first leg at home and then holding out for a 1-1 draw in the return.

The 7-3 aggregate was among the most emphatic in the history of the tournament (beaten only by Algeria's JE Tizi-Ouzou in 1981) and an explosive arrival by a team who had never before competed in the Champions' Cup.

The result also marked a breakthrough for the Tunisians. Their national team were pipped for a place in the 1990 World Cup finals by Cameroon, and Club Africain were beaten in the final of the African Cup-winners' Cup in the same year.

There were nine survivors from that defeat, by BCC Lions of Nigeria, who this time managed to get their hands on a trophy.

Club Africain had everything going for them in Tunis, where freezing temperatures and driving rain handicapped the ill-equipped Ugandans.

Central defender Lofti Mhaissi netted the first goal for the home team. There was an equaliser from Suleiman Kato soon after, but Club Africain scored four more without reply, by Mhaissi (penalty), Adel Sellimi, Sami Touati and exciting youngster Faouzi Rouissi.

In the final 10 minutes, Majid Musisi pulled one goal back for Villa, but defender Semugabi was sent off and Faouzi Rouissi netted a late penalty.

Africa's finest . . . Club Africain players celebrate with the Champions' Cup.

Eight Villa players had to leave their club camp to join the Ugandan national team in the two-week East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup, which did not improve second-leg prospects.

But there was still some confidence, given that Club Africain had thrown away a three-goal lead in the semi-final against Nkana Red Devils of Zambia, and only scraped through on away goals.

So a delirious home crowd awaited a dramatic comeback, but it was not to be.

Club Africain played a tight midfield game and were to counter, making opportunities for Faouzi Roussi, one of three brothers in the team and the subject of attention from Leeds United. Faouzi and Sellimi were the tournament's top scorers, with six goals each.

Five minutes after half-time Sami Touati's angled shot hit William Higenyi and trickled into the net.

The Ugandans only managed a consolation equaliser, by young substitute Idi Batambuze in the 71st minute.

There were wild celebrations as the Tunisians marked a breakthrough for their club soccer and even bigger parades when their plane took them home.

But the party was not as big as the one black Africa will have when they eventually get their hands on the Champions' Cup.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP ROLL OF HONOUR

1964	Oryx Douala	(Cameroon)
1965	Stade d'Abidjan	(Ivory Coast)
1966	Tout Puissant Englebert	(Zaire)
1967	Tout Puissant Englebert	(Zaire)
1968	Ismailia	(Egypt)
1970	Ashante Kotoko	(Ghana)
1971	Canon Yaounde	(Cameroon)
1972	Hafia Conakry	(Guinea)
1973	Vita Club Kinshasa	(Zaire)
1974	CARA Brazzaville	(Congo)
1975	Hafia Conakry	(Guinea)
1976	Mouloudia d'Alger	(Algeria)
1977	Hafia Conakry	(Guinea)
1978	Canon Yaounde	(Cameroon)
1979	Union Douala	(Cameroon)
1980	Canon Yaounde	(Cameroon)
1981	JE Tizi-Ouzou	(Algeria)
1982	Al Ahly	(Egypt)
1983	Ashante Kotoko	(Ghana)
1984	Zamalek	(Egypt)
1985	Forces Armees Royales	(Morocco)
1986	Zamalek	(Egypt)
1987	Al Ahly	(Egypt)
1988	Raja Casablanca	(Morocco)
1990	JS Kabylie	(Algeria)
1991	Club Africain	(Tunisia)

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

FIRST LEG
November 23, 1991
El Menzah stadium, Tunis
Club Africain (Tunisia) 6 (Mhaissi 30, 49, Touati 44, A Sellimi 57, F Rouissi 79, 84)
Nakivubo Sports Villa (Uganda) 2 (Kato 33, Musisi 81)
Ref: H Kouassi (Togo). **Att:** 40,000.
Club Africain: Adel Hammami, Adel Rouissi (Sami Elmi 64), Foudhil Magharia, Lofti Mhaissi, Said Bergaoui, Sami Nasri, Samir Sellimi, Lolfi Rouissi, Adel Sellimi, Sami Touati (Sabri Bouhali 70), Faouzi Rouissi. Coach: Ilic Belachi.
Nakivubo Sports Villa: Mike Mukasa, Paul Hasule, Adam Semugabi*, Geofrey Higenyi, William Nkemba, Paul Nkria, Majid Musisi, Iwaha Kivumbi, Peter Nsaba, Zaidi Tebesigwa (Paul Mukaiabala 46), Suleiman Kato. Coach: Geoff Hudson.
*** Sent off:** Semugabi (Nakivubo) 73 minutes.

SECOND LEG
December 14 1991
Nakivubo stadium, Kampala
Navivubo Sports Villa 1 (Butambuze 71)
Club Africain 1 (Touati 51)
Club Africain win 7-3 on agg.
Ref: B Sene (Senegal). **Att:** 25,000.
Nakivubo Sports Villa: Mike Mukasa, Paul Hasule, David Kyagulanyi, William Nkemba, Geofrey Higenyi, Paul Nkria, Iwaha Kivumbi (Robert Semukula 71), Peter Nsaba (Idi Butambuze 51), Majid Musisi, Paul Mukaiabala, Suleiman Kato. Coach: Geoff Hudson.
Club Africain: Adel Hammami, Adel Rouissi, Foudhil Magharia, Lofti Mhaissi, Said Bergaoui, Sami Nasri, Samir Sellimi, Lolfi Rouissi, Adel Sellimi, Sami Touati (Sabri Bouhali 56, Mohamed Hedi Abdelhak 74), Faouzi Rouissi. Coach: Ilic Belachi.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Ifodje Atakpeme (Togo) v Sahel Niamev (Niger) 0-0; 1-3
Tempete Mocafe (CAR) v Petro Atletico (Ang) 2-4; 0-4
Royal Lesotho Defence Force v Pamba SC (Tan) 0-3; 0-0
Denver Sundowns (Swa) v Gaborone Utd (Bot) 0-1; 1-0
(Sundowns won 4-2 on pens)
ASF (Mad) v St Louis (Sey) 4-1; 0-0
Addis Ababa Brewery (Eth) walkover v Jadidka (Som)

FIRST ROUND
JS Kabylie (Alg) v Tout-Puissant ES (Chad) 6-0; 0-1
FC Sahel Niamey v Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0-0; 1-3
Al Ahly (Egy) walkover v Addis Ababa Brewery
Gor Mahia (Ken) v Highlanders (Zim) 1-0; 0-4
Hearts of Oak (Gha) v Petro Atletico (Ang) 4-2; 1-3
Al Ittihad (Lib) v ASEC Abidjan (IC) 0-2; 0-0
Union Douala (Cam) v Etoile Filante (BF) 3-0; 2-1
Inter Club (Con) v Vital O (Bur) 2-1; 0-1
Nkana Red Devils (Zam) v ASF 6-0; walkover in 2nd leg
Sunrise SC (Mauritius) v Denver Sundowns 6-0; 1-2
Iwuanyanwu Nat. (Nigeria) v Old Edwardians (SL) 3-0; 0-2
FC Lupopo (Zai) v JAC Port-Gentil (Gab) 1-1; 0-0
El Merreikh (Sud) v Nakivubo Sports Villa (Uga) 1-0; 0-1
(Villa won 8-7 on pens)
Matchedje (Moz) v Pamba SC 1-1; 0-1
Club Africain (Tun) v Renquins Atlantique (Ben) 5-1; 2-1
Port Autonome (Sen) v Djoliba (Mali) 0-0; 0-1

SECOND ROUND
JS Kabylie v Wydad Casablanca 1-0; 0-3
Al Ahly v Highlanders 3-1; 1-0
Petro Atletico v ASEC Abidjan 1-0; 0-1
(ASEC won 3-1 on pens)
Union Douala v Vital O 2-0; 0-0
Nkana Red Devils v Sunrise SC 4-1; 0-2
Iwuanyanwu Nationale v JAC Port-Gentile 5-0; 2-1
Nakivubo Villa v Pamba SC 4-1; 1-2
Club Africain v Djoliba 2-0; 0-0

QUARTER-FINALS
Union Douala v Nkana Red Devils 2-1; 0-1
Club Africain v Wydad Casablanca 2-0; 0-1
Al Ahly v Nakivubo Villa 2-0; 0-2
(Villa won 4-2 on pens)
Iwuanyanwu Nationale v ASEC Abidjan 3-0; 0-3
(Iwuanyanwu won 6-5 on pens)

SEMI-FINALS
Club Africain v Nkana Red Devils 3-0; 1-4
Nakivubo Villa v Iwuanyanwu Nationale 3-2; 1-1

FINAL
Club Africain v Nakivubo Villa 6-2; 1-1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 — F Rouissi, A Sellimi (Club Africain, Tunisia)
5 — Ndunguidi (Petro Atletico, Angola), **Addelhak** (Club Africain, Tunisia), **Musisi** (Nakivubo Villa, Uganda)
4 — Selemani (Pama SC, Tanzania), **Chambeshi** (Nkana Red Devils, Zambia)
3 — Randrianaivo (Sunrise SC, Mauritius), **Sakala** (Nkana Red Devils, Zambia).

Walkout ends in suspension

THE climax of Tanzania's season brought the familiar controversy in both Mainland and Super Leagues.

Accusations of match-fixing surrounded the final day's results in the Mainland (Tanganyika) First Division. After considerable wrangling, the result of third-placed Coastal Union's deciding game (an unbelievable 9-2 against relegated Mecco) was nullified.

The Superleague decides the destination of the union crown in the United Republic of Tanzania, fought out at the end of the season among the top three sides from both the Mainland (Tanganyika) and Zanzibar in a final round robin mini-league.

For the second season running, Simba's frustration at missing Superleague honours led them to drop out of the event's final stages.

The were drawing 0-0 at half-time against rivals Yanga in the final match, but failed to appear for the second half as a protest against alleged bias by Zanzibar referee Hafidh Ally.

The FA ruled that Simba should be disqualified from the Superleague and thus lose their right to represent Tanzania in the Africa CAF Cup being introduced next year. Their place goes instead to Zanzibar's Small Simba.

Controversy apart, Mainland champions Yanga — Young Africans of Dar es Salaam won the Superleague title for a record third time.

They go on to represent Tanzania in the Champions' Cup, while runners-up Morogoro Railways take part in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Zanzibar soccer, based on a population of only half a million people, is understandably considered inferior to that of the Mainland (with a population of over 23 million).

This was emphasised in this year's Superleague with the three top slots all taken by Mainland sides — before Simba were disqualified.

Teams from Zanzibar have won only two of the ten Superleague competitions. Nevertheless Small Simba's participation in the new CAF Cup, as Tanzania's representatives, would be fitting — they have been Zanzibar's outstanding team over the past decade.

TANZANIA SUPERLEAGUE — final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yanga	10	7	2	1	18	4	16
Railways	10	5	4	1	12	8	14
Simba	10	4	3	3	12	10	11*
Small Simba	10	2	4	4	9	10	8
Jamhuri	10	1	5	4	8	14	7
Black Fighters	10	1	2	7	8	22	4

*** = DISQUALIFIED.**

WINNERS IN TANZANIA

YEAR	SUPERLEAGUE	MAINLAND	ZANZIBAR
1982	Pan African	Pan African	Ujamaa
1983	Yanga	Yanga	Small Simba
1984	KMKM	Simba	KMKM
1985	Maji Maji	Yanga	KMKM
1986	Maji Maji	Tukuyu Stars	Small Simba
1987	Yanga	Yanga	Miembeni
1988	African Sports	Coastal Union	Small Simba
1989	Malindi	Yanga	Malindi
1990	Pamba	Simba	Malindi
1991	Yanga	Yanga	Small Simba

ALLEN **ARMSTRONG**

Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Nov 27 = Psyala — intl friendly
Libya 0
Malta 2 (Brincat 44, Sultana 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Nov 30 = Dakar — Amilcar Cabral semi-final
Cape Verde 0
Sierra Leone 0
Att: 10,000.
(Cape Verde win 4-1 on pens)

Nov 30 = Ziquinchor — Amilcar Cabral semi-final
Senegal 2 (A Seck 56, L Sarr 62)
Gambia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Dec 1 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 1 (Ismail Youssef 40)
Kuwait 1 (Milla 4)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000.

● Roger Milla danced out of retirement to guest for the Kuwaitis in their first full international since the end of the Gulf War. Not only that but he scored their goal after just four minutes and the Egyptians did not find it easy earning a draw. Not a good omen for Egypt's African Championship campaign.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Dec 2 = Dakar — Amilcar Cabral Final
Senegal 1 (L Sarr 89 pen)
Cape Verde 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000.

● A conveniently-timed penalty brought hosts Senegal Final victory to set them up neatly for the African Nations' finals they would be staging in six weeks' time.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Dec 4 = Salonika — Euro chp gp 6
Greece 0
Holland 2 (Dennis Bergkamp 38, Danny Blind 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,500. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).
Greece: Sarganis — Pavlos Papaioannu (Karageorgiu 46), Lagonidis, Kalintzakis, Mitsibonas, Tsaluhidis, Saravakos, Papadopulos, Tsiantakis, Nioplias, Karapialis (Tursunidis 61).
Holland: Van Breukelen — Blind, Van Tiggelen, R Koeman, E Koeman, Wouters, Rijkaard (Winter 61), Richard Witschge, Bergkamp, Van Basten, Kieft (Bosz 83).

● Holland secured their place in the European finals. Greece needed to beat Holland and then win their last group game by a wide margin to qualify instead. They failed to do that despite an unexpected bonus when Ruud Gullit withdrew from the match after straining a muscle in the warm-up — an incident which caused a minor altercation with manager Rinus Michels. Wouters created the opening goal shortly before half-time for Bergkamp but though Holland dominated the second half it was not until three minutes from time that Blind made victory certain by heading home a Van Basten cross. Greece's best chance fell to Saravakos after 33 minutes but Van Breukelen saved well.

Dec 4 = Casablanca — intl friendly
Morocco 3 (Ammouta 13, Rokbi 26, Dmiai 55)
Mali 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Dec 5 = Leon — intl friendly
Mexico 3 (Luis Garcia 53, 72, De la Torre 82 pen)
Hungary 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Nunez Vega (Mex).
Mexico: Campos — Aguirre, Gutierrez, J Ramirez — De la Torre, Farfan, Espana, S Ramirez — Valdez (R Ramirez 71), Luis Garcia, A Garcia.
Hungary: Brockhauser — Vaczi, Nagy (Zombori 46), Simon, Urban — Pisont (Illes 61), Bognar, Lipcsei, Keller — T Balog (Orosz 61), Eszenyi (Hamori 77).

● Cesar Menotti recorded a clear victory over a Hungarian team so much in transition that caretaker coach Robert Glazer had none of his foreign-based stars available and used the financially-profitable trip to give some of the new Hungarian hopefuls a taste of the international arena.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Dec 7 = Kampala (Uganda) — East and Central African Cup
Zambia 2 (Kaunda 86, Mbasela 89)
Kenya 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Dec 8 = San Salvador/Cuscatlan — intl friendly
El Salvador 1 (Gonzalez 51)
Hungary 1 (Hamori 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. Ref: Rodriguez (ES).
El Salvador: F Rivera — Trigueros (Aberego 46), Meza, J Rivera (Orellana 46), M Rodriguez (Vazquez 60), — Gomez, Gonzalez, Lazo — Canales, Diaz Arce, Correas (Mentivar 56).
Hungary: Vegh — Simon, Vaczi, Urban (Z Balog 46), Keller — T Nagy (Zombori 63), Pisont (Illes 63), Bognar (T Balog 74), Lipcsei — Eszenyi, Orosz (Hamori 35).

● Jet lag appeared to catch up with Hungary in the second half after they controlled the first half and deserved their half-time lead, when Orosz sent Hamori clear to go round Rivera. A mistake in midfield by Eszenyi opened the way for Gonzalez to equalise six minutes into the second half. Twice in the closing stages Diaz Arce went close for El Salvador.

Dec 15 = Abidjan — intl friendly
Ivory Coast 4 (Beugre Yago 4, Abdoulaye Traore 24, Olivier D Sie 44, 46)
Kenya 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 3,000.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Dec 17 = Leverkusen — Euro chp gp 5
Germany 4 (Lothar Matthaus 15pen, Guido Buchwald 44, Karheinz Riedle 51, Thomas Hassler 62)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Przesmycki (Pol).
Germany: Illgner — Kohler, Binz, Buchwald — Reuter, Moller (Bein 70), Matthaus, Doll (Hassler 46), Brehme — Riedle, Voller.
Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck — Petry, Bossi, Birsens — Girres (Jeitz 83), Weis, Hellers, Groff (Holtz 78), Wolf — Malget, Langers.

● Germany cruised through to the finals of the European Championship, winning just to make sure when they needed only a draw. Matthaus shot Germany ahead from a penalty after Bossi brought down Riedle. Defender Buchwald held off Petry long enough to shoot No 2 and provided the cross for Riedle to head the third. Substitute Hassler scored a spectacular fourth. Coach Berti Vogts said: "It was a tough group but I'm sure we will do well in Sweden." Vogts added that he would not be including Thomas Berthold in his squad for the finals because Berthold would still be suspended for the first two group matches after his five-game ban following expulsion against Wales in Cardiff.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Dec 18 = Goiana — intl friendly
Brazil 2 (Elivelton 12, Rai 50 pen)
Czechoslovakia 1 (Skuhravy 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Brazil: Carlos — Giba, Antonio Carlos (Cleber), Ronaldo, Lira, Mauro Silva, Rai, Luis Henrique (Cesar Sampaio), Bebeto, Valdeir (Charles), Elivelton (Paulo Sergio).
Czechoslovakia: Miklosko — Gionek, Suchoparek, Nemecek, Frydek (Kristofik), Nemec (Kotulek), Marosi, Dubowsky (Pecko), Hapal, Skuhravy, Latal.

● Brazil, in their second game under new coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, showed more of their old style and took Czechoslovakia's defence apart with some quick wing play. In front of goal they left a lot to be desired but Elivelton opened the scoring after 12 minutes when he dribbled around three defenders. A foul on Valdeir produced the penalty which Rai converted for Brazil's second goal. Genoa's Tomas Skuhravy scored a late consolation goal for the visitors.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Dec 21 = Foggia — Euro chp gp 3
Italy 2 (Gianluca Vialli 27, Roberto Baggio 55)
Cyprus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Marko (Cze).
Italy: Zenga — Dino Baggio, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini, Albertini, Berti, Evani, Zola. Roberto Baggio (Casiraghi 65), Vialli (Baiano 66).
Cyprus: Christofi — G Constantinu, Pittas, K Constantinu, Nicolau, Michael (Andreu 62), Koliandris, Savva, Sotariu, Ioannu (Larku 80), Charalambous.

● Italy wound up their qualifying campaign with a victory which was enough to lift them into the runners-up spot so important if the CIS (ex-Soviet Union) were to pull out of the European finals. Roberto Baggio made the one goal for Vialli and scored the second himself on an opening created by Zola. Albertini made a promising start and Baiano played promisingly after substituting Vialli. But not all of the newcomers were so effective and Dino Baggio, an experimental right-back, frequently fluffed his lines.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Dec 22 = Valetta — Euro chp gp 6
Malta 1 (Sultana 42)
Greece 1 (Marinakis 67)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Girard (Fra).
Malta: Cluett — Brincat, Galea, S Vella, Saliba, Laferla, Busuttil, R Vella (Camilleri 68), Scerri (Sultana 33), Gregory, Degiorgio.
Greece: Plitsis — Papaioannu, Kapuranis, Mitsibonas, Kalitzakis, Tsaluhidis, Thonis (Giotsas 56), Marangos (Marinakis 44), Dimitriadis, Noblias, Tsiantakis.

● The European qualifiers ended with a lacklustre game. Greek manager Georgiadis rested five key players (Sarganis, Apostolakis, Manolas, Karapialis and Saravakos). Kalitzakis almost opened the scoring after 18 minutes, only to see his effort cleared off the line by Degiorgio. Sultana shot Malta ahead after a free kick by Degiorgio. But Greece equalised 22 minutes into the second half when substitute Marinakis converted a pass from Giotsas. Greece nearly won it six minutes from time but Cluett saved superbly from Tsaluhidis. When French referee Girard blew his final whistle he also signalled an end to his own international career.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Jan 4 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 2 (Ahmed El Kas 8, Ahmed Hani Ramzy 78)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Jan 7 = Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 0
Norway 0
Att: 20,000.

● This was Egypt's final warm-up before their departure for the finals of the African Nations' Cup in Senegal.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Jan 12 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp A
Senegal 1
Nigeria 2

Jan 12 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp B
Cameroon 1
Morocco 0

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

Jan 13 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp C
Ivory Coast 3
Algeria 0

Jan 13 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp D
Zambia 1
Egypt 0

Jan 14 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp A
Kenya 1
Nigeria 2

Jan 14 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp B
Morocco 1
Zaire 1

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Jan 15 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp C
Congo 0
Ivory Coast 0

Jan 15 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp D
Ghana 1
Zambia 0

Jan 15 = Torres Novas — intl friendly
Portugal 0
Spain 0
Att: 11,000.

● Portugal and Spain have little contact at soccer level and a draw was a diplomatically fair result. Both sides fielded experimental line-ups, though it was Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz who gave more younger players their head. Portugal started brightly but lacked penetration while Spain's attacking effort was disrupted after ten minutes when Butragueno had to go off with a head gash after being stepped on accidentally by Emilio Peixe. Portugal keeper Vitor Baia saved well in the first half from Manolo and Hierro and again in the second half from Hierro.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Jan 16 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp A
Senegal 3
Kenya 0

Jan 16 = Dakar — African Nations' finals, Gp B
Cameroon 1
Zaire 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Jan 17 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp C
Algeria 1
Congo 1

Jan 17 = Ziquinchor — African Nations' finals, Gp D
Egypt 0
Ghana 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Jan 19 = Dakar — African Nations' quarter-finals
Nigeria 1
Zaire 0

Jan 19 = Dakar — African Nations' quarter-finals
Cameroon 1
Senegal 0

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Jan 20 = Dakar — African Nations' quarter-finals
Ivory Coast 1
Zambia 0
(after extra time)

Jan 20 = Dakar — African Nations' quarter-finals
Ghana 2
Congo 1

● Note: full details for the matches of the African finals can be found in the special report in this issue on Pages 20-23.

OTHER MATCHES

Dec 18 (Castellon de la Plana):
Spain B 0, England B 1 (Merson).
Dec 21 (Livorno): Juventus 2 (Galia 2), **Senegal 1** (Ndiaje).
Jan 12: Brazil Olympic/U23 0, Uruguay O/U 1.
Jan 15: Brazil O/U 0, Paraguay O/U 3.
Jan 17: Uruguay O/U 3, US U/U 2.
Jan 19: Brazil I/U 0, Argentina O/U 1.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1

30.05.90	Iceland v Albania	2-0
05.09.90	Iceland v France	1-2
26.09.90	Czechoslovakia v Iceland	1-0
10.10.90	Spain v Iceland	2-1
13.10.90	France v Czechoslovakia	2-1
14.11.90	Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-2
17.11.90	Albania v France	0-1
19.12.90	Spain v Albania	9-0
20.02.91	France v Spain	3-1
30.03.91	France v Albania	5-0
01.05.91	Albania v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26.05.91	Albania v Iceland	1-0
05.06.91	Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
04.09.91	Czechoslovakia v France	1-2
25.09.91	Iceland v Spain	2-0
12.10.91	Spain v France	1-2
16.10.91	Czechoslovakia v Albania	2-1
13.11.91	Spain v Czechoslovakia	2-1
20.11.91	France v Iceland	3-1
18.12.91	Albania v Spain	Cancelled

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
FRANCE	8	8	0	0	20	6	16
Czechoslovakia	8	5	0	3	12	9	10
Spain	7	3	0	4	17	12	6
Iceland	8	2	0	6	7	10	4
Albania	7	1	0	6	2	21	2

GROUP2

12.09.90	Switzerland v Bulgaria	2-0
12.09.90	Scotland v Romania	2-1
17.10.90	Romania v Bulgaria	0-3
17.10.90	Scotland v Switzerland	2-1
14.11.90	Bulgaria v Scotland	1-1
14.11.90	San Marino v Switzerland	0-4
05.12.90	Romania v San Marino	6-0
27.03.91	Scotland v Bulgaria	1-1
27.03.91	San Marino v Romania	1-3
03.04.91	Switzerland v Romania	0-0
01.05.91	Bulgaria v Switzerland	2-3
01.05.91	San Marino v Scotland	0-2
22.05.91	San Marino v Bulgaria	0-3
05.06.91	Switzerland v San Marino	7-0
11.09.91	Switzerland v Scotland	2-2
16.10.91	Bulgaria v San Marino	4-0
16.10.91	Romania v Scotland	1-0
13.11.91	Scotland v San Marino	4-0
13.11.91	Romania v Switzerland	1-0
20.11.91	Bulgaria v Romania	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SCOTLAND	8	4	3	1	14	7	11
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	19	7	10
Romania	8	4	2	2	13	7	10
Bulgaria	8	3	3	2	15	8	9
San Marino	8	0	0	8	1	33	0

GROUP 3

12.09.90	USSR v Norway	2-0
10.10.90	Norway v Hungary	0-0
17.10.90	Hungary v Italy	1-1
31.10.90	Hungary v Cyprus	4-2
03.11.90	Italy v USSR	0-0
14.11.90	Cyprus v Norway	0-3
22.12.90	Cyprus v Italy	0-4
03.04.91	Cyprus v Hungary	0-2
17.04.91	Hungary v USSR	0-1
01.05.91	Italy v Hungary	3-1
01.05.91	Norway v Cyprus	3-0
29.05.91	USSR v Cyprus	4-0
05.06.91	Norway v Italy	2-1
28.08.91	Norway v USSR	0-1
25.09.91	USSR v Hungary	2-2
12.10.91	USSR v Italy	0-0
30.10.91	Hungary v Norway	0-0
13.11.91	Italy v Norway	1-1
13.11.91	Cyprus v USSR	0-3
21.12.91	Italy v Cyprus	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
USSR	8	5	3	0	13	2	13
Italy	8	3	4	1	12	5	10
Norway	8	3	3	2	9	5	9
Hungary	8	2	4	2	10	9	8
Cyprus	8	0	0	8	2	25	0

GROUP 4

12.09.90	N.Ireland v Yugoslavia	0-2
12.09.90	Faroe Islands v Austria	1-0
10.10.90	Denmark v Faroe Islands	4-1
17.10.90	N.Ireland v Denmark	1-1
31.10.90	Yugoslavia v Austria	4-1
14.11.90	Denmark v Yugoslavia	0-2
14.11.90	Austria v N.Ireland	0-0
27.03.91	Yugoslavia v N.Ireland	4-1
01.05.91	Yugoslavia v Denmark	1-2
01.05.91	N.Ireland v Faroe Islands	1-1
16.05.91	Yugoslavia v Faroe Islands	7-0
22.05.91	Austria v Faroe Islands	3-0
05.06.91	Denmark v Austria	2-1
11.09.91	Faroe Islands v N.Ireland	0-5
25.09.91	Faroe Islands v Denmark	0-4
09.10.91	Austria v Denmark	0-3
16.10.91	Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia	0-2
16.10.91	N.Ireland v Austria	2-1
13.11.91	Denmark v N.Ireland	2-1
13.11.91	Austria v Yugoslavia	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
YUGOSLAVIA	8	7	0	1	24	4	14
Denmark	8	6	1	1	18	7	13
N.Ireland	8	2	3	3	11	11	7
Austria	8	1	1	6	6	14	3
Faroe Islands	8	1	1	6	3	26	3

GROUP 5

17.10.90	Wales v Belgium	3-1
31.10.90	Luxembourg v Germany	2-3
14.11.90	Luxembourg v Wales	0-1
27.02.91	Belgium v Luxembourg	3-0
27.03.91	Belgium v Wales	1-1
01.05.91	Germany v Belgium	1-0
05.06.91	Wales v Germany	1-0
11.09.91	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
16.10.91	Germany v Wales	4-1
13.11.91	Wales v Luxembourg	1-0
20.11.91	Belgium v Germany	0-1
18.12.91	Germany v Luxembourg	4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GERMANY	6	5	0	1	13	4	10
Wales	6	4	1	1	8	6	9
Belgium	6	2	1	3	7	6	5
Luxembourg	6	0	0	5	2	14	0

GROUP 6

12.09.90	Finland v Portugal	0-0
17.10.90	Portugal v Holland	1-0
31.10.90	Greece v Malta	4-0
21.11.90	Holland v Greece	2-0
25.11.90	Malta v Finland	1-1
19.12.90	Malta v Holland	0-8
23.01.91	Greece v Portugal	3-2
09.02.91	Malta v Portugal	0-1
20.02.91	Portugal v Malta	5-0
13.03.91	Holland v Malta	1-0
17.04.91	Holland v Finland	2-0
16.05.91	Finland v Malta	2-0
05.06.91	Finland v Holland	1-1
11.09.91	Portugal v Finland	1-0
09.10.91	Finland v Greece	1-1
16.10.91	Holland v Portugal	1-0
30.10.91	Greece v Finland	2-0
20.11.91	Portugal v Greece	1-0
04.12.91	Greece v Holland	0-2
22.12.91	Malta v Greece	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
HOLLAND	8	6	1	1	17	2	13
Portugal	8	5	1	2	11	4	11
Greece	8	3	2	3	11	9	8
Finland	8	1	4	3	5	8	6
Malta	8	0	2	6	2	23	2

GROUP 7

7.10.90	England v Poland	2-0
17.10.90	Rep.of Ireland v Turkey	5-0
14.11.90	Rep.of Ireland v England	1-1
14.11.90	Turkey v Poland	0-1
27.03.91	England v Rep.of Ireland	1-1
17.04.91	Poland v Turkey	3-0
01.05.91	Turkey v England	0-1
01.05.91	Rep.of Ireland v Poland	0-0
16.10.91	Poland v Rep.of Ireland	3-3
16.10.91	England v Turkey	1-0
13.11.91	Turkey v Rep.of Ireland	1-3
13.11.91	Poland v England	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	6	3	3	0	7	3	9
Rep.of Ireland	6	2	4	0	13	6	8
Poland	6	2	3	1	8	6	7
Turkey	6	0	0	6	1	14	0

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DEC 1

AUSTRIA

Admira Wacker 3, Alpine 0
Sturm Graz 1, FC Tirol 2
Vienna 1, Austria Salzburg 3
Austria Wien 1, St Polten 0
Vorwarts Steyr 1, Stahl Linz 3
Kremser 0, Rapid Wien 1

BELGIUM Weekend

Anderlecht 0, Standard 0. Att: 28,000.
Lierse 0, Mechelen 3 (Eljkelkamp 30, 66, Severeyns 69). **Att:** 10,500.
FC Liege 1 (Varga 83), **Molenbeek 1** (Emenaio 89). **Att:** 5,000.
Genk 0, Antwerp 2 (Czerniatynski 7, 73). **Att:** 6,250.
Kortrijk 2 (Van Durme 13, Timmerman 70), **Gent 4** (Vandenbergh 17, Verdegem 53, Dauwen 68, Balenga 88). **Att:** 5,000.
Aalst 0, Cercle Brugge 1 (Karacic 76). **Att:** 5,000.
Club Brugge 1 (Affo 9 o.g.), **Charleroi 1** (Zetterberg 83). **Att:** 8,000.
Lokeren 3 (Veyt 72, Jacobs 85, Meszaros 89), **Waregem 0. Att:** 2,500.
Ekeren 0, Beveren 0. Att: 4,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

Arsenal 2 (Wright 68, Campbell 78), **Tottenham 0. Att:** 38,892.
Chelsea 1 (Dixon 46), **Nottm. Forest 0. Att:** 19,420.
Coventry 2 (Gallacher 23, Pearce 70), **Southampton 0. Att:** 8,585.
C Palace 1 (Mortimer 17), **Manchester Utd 3** (Webb 26, McClair 57, Kanchelskis 58). **Att:** 29,017.
Leeds Utd 1 (Wallace 78), **Everton 0. Att:** 30,043.
Liverpool 2 (Molby 3, Houghton 30), **Norwich 1** (Beckford 34). **Att:** 34,881.
Manchester City 0, Wimbledon 0. Att: 22,429.
Notts Co 0, QPR 1 (Ferdinand 89). **Att:** 7,901.
Oldham 3 (Sharp pen 34, 82, Palmer 65), **A Villa 2** (Blake 10, Regis 58). **Att:** 15,370.
Sheffield Utd 1 (Bryson 88), **Luton 1** (Telfer 79). **Att:** 21,804.
West Ham 1 (Breaker 80), **Sheffield Wed 2** (Harkes 24, Jemson 85). **Att:** 24,116.

FRANCE Weekend

Nantes 1 (Quedec 83), **Rennes 0. Att:** 6,500.
Montpellier 3 (Perilleux pen 35, 66, Divert 87), **Cannes 0. Att:** 8,000.
Sochaux 0, Metz 0. Att: 4,000.
Toulouse 0, Nimes 1 (Maharzi 90). **Att:** 11,470.
St. Etienne 1 (Kastendeuch pen 67), **Caen 1** (Rio 66). **Att:** 12,000.
Lens 2 (Bocande 28, 32), **Toulon 1** (Passi 51). **Att:** 8,000.
Auxerre 2 (Dutuel 47, Baticle 75), **Paris SG 2** (Valdo 36, Geraldo 85). **Att:** 10,000.
Marseille 0, Lyon 0. Att: 23,295.
Le Havre 0, Lille 0. Att: 8,435.
Nancy 1 (Tarasiewicz 11), **Monaco 4** (Fofana 2, Debah 35, 40, Rui Barros 81). **Att:** 7,1000.

GERMANY Weekend

Borussia Mg 2 (Klinkert 48, Kastenmaier 77), **Leverkusen 2** (Thom 19, 74). **Att:** 15,000.
Bor. Dortmund 1 (Poulsen 42), **Karlsruher SC 0. Att:** 35,020.
Wattenscheid 4 (Tschiskale 63, Bach 67, Ibrahim 86, Sane 90), **Stuttgarter K 1** (Marin 17). **Att:** 3,000.
Koln 1 (Sturm 40), **Vfl Bochum 0. Att:** 13,000.
VfB Stuttgart 2 (Sverrisson 8, Gaudino 75), **Duisburg 0. Att:** 17,000.
Kaiserslautern 4 (Hotic 11, Kuntz pen 36, 54, Hoffman 75), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Zander pen 44). **Att:** 29,547.
Hamburg 2 (Furtok 65, 71), **Schalke 1** (Christensen 90). **Att:** 23,197.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Weber 80), **Fortuna 1** (Demandt 73). **Att:** 17,000.
Nurnberg 0, Hansa Rostock 0. Att: 27,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Mazinho 53, 89, Reck 67 o.g.), **Werder Bremen 4** (Rufer 7, M. Bode 32, Kohn 52, Borowka 85). **Att:** 18,000.

HOLLAND Weekend *(22/23/ 24:11:91)*

Ajax 1 (Wegereef 7), **SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att:** 10,152.
PSV 1 (Kalusha 32), **Volendam 1** (Berghuise 64). **Att:** 21,750.
Den Haag 0, Willem II 2 (Vincent 22, Hofstede 53). **Att:** 1,200.
De Graafschap 1 (De Wijs 57), **VVV 0. Att:** 6,240.

Weekend *(29/30:11:91)*
Volendam 0, Den Haag 0. Att: 2,650.
Groningen 2 (Van Duren 13, Roossien pen 90), **Utrecht 0. Att:** 13,804.

ITALY Weekend

Atalanta 0, Parma 1 (Melli 10). **Att:** 20,150.
Bari 1 (Platt 87), **Genoa 2** (Florin 46, Skuhravy 63). **Att:** 34,900.
Cagliari 2 (Fonseca 46, 59), **Ascoli 0. Att:** 17,700.
Cremonese 1 (Verdelli 69), **Fiorentina 3** (Malusci 46, Batistuta 58, Glandeblaggi 90 o.g.). **Att:** 9,500.
Internazionale 1 (Klinsmann 55), **AC Milan 1** (Van Basten 18). **Att:** 80,000.
Juventus 2 (Schillaci 37, De Marchi 88 o.g.), **AS Roma 1** (Giannini 71). **Att:** 45,000.
Lazio 3 (Riedle 24, 57, Sosa pen 68), **Napoli 3** (Ferrara 43, Blanc 79, Zola 90). **Att:** 55,200.
Sampdoria 0, Torino 0. Att: 25,500.
Verona 1 (D. Pellegrini 75), **Foggia 0. Att:** 25,000.

PORTUGAL

Sporting 1, Estoril 0
Vit. Guimares 1, Torriense 1
Gil Vicente 1, Maritimo 1
Boavista 3, Pacos de F. 0
Salgueiros 1, Chaves 1
Penafiel 0, FC Porto 2
Uniao 1, Famalicao 0
Beira-Mar 1, Sp. Braga 0
Farense 2, Benfica 2

SCOTLAND Weekend

Aberdeen 1 (Gillhaus pen 79), **Falkirk 1** (Duffy 37). **Att:** 10,600.
Celtic 1 (Coyne 31), **Dunfermline 0. Att:** 20,452.
Hearts 1 (Crabbe pen 71), **Airdrie 0. Att:** 12,073.
Motherwell 0, Rangers 2 (Gordon 48, Gough 51). **Att:** 15,350.
St Johnstone 0, Hibernian 1 (McIntyre 76). **Att:** 6,717.
St Mirren 1 (Broddle 53), **Dundee Utd 1** (Cleland 83). **Att:** 3,500.

SPAIN Weekend

Albacete 1 (Catali 25), **Barcelona 1** (Stoichkov 42). **Att:** 15,000.
Burgos 0, La Coruna 0. Att: 9,000.
Mallorca v Logrones — *postponed.*
Espanol 1 (Wuttke pen 77), **Real Madrid 5** (Michel 5, Hierro 15, 24, 86, Luis Enrique 65). **Att:** 22,000.
Real Sociedad 0, Sporting Gijon 0. Att: 16,568.
Zaragoza 1 (Higuera 90), **Sevilla 1** (Salguero 37). **Att:** 25,000.
Oviedo 1 (Carlos 21), **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Garitano pen 45). **Att:** 17,821.
Atletico Madrid 5 (Manolo pen 1, 49, 52, Schuster 69, 89), **Valladolid 1** (Fonseca 59). **Att:** 40,000.
Osasuna 1 (Cholo 86), **Cadiz 0. Att:** 12,000.
Valencia 1 (Toni 21 o.g.), **Tenerife 0. Att:** 35,000.

SWITZERLAND

Lausanne Sports 0, Sion 0
Lugano 0, Servette 2
Neuchatel Xamax 1, St Gallen 0
Wettingen 0, Grasshoppers 3
Young Boys 0, FC Luzern 0
FC Zurich 0, Aarau 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DEC 8

BELGIUM Weekend

Gent 1 (Viscaal 49), **Anderlecht 3** (Oliveira 26, Bosman 38, Nilis pen 60). **Att:** 18,000.
Charleroi 1 (Wuyts 27), **FC Liege 1** (Ernes 48). **Att:** 11,000.
Mechelen 0, Club Brugge 0. Att: 12,700.
Standard 0, Aalst 0. Att: 13,000.
Antwerp 4 (Lehnheff 26, 32, Czeriatynski pen 52, Smidts 70), **Kortrijk 1** (Feutbma 17). **Att:** 3,008.
Genk 1 (Reynders 18), **Beveren 0. Att:** 5,500.
Waregem 2 (Niederbacher 55, Abeels 72), **Ekeren 0. Att:** 8,000.
Molenbeek 1 (Osundu 39), **Lokeren 0. Att:** 6,500.
Cercle Brugge 2 (Pauwels 15, Frenay 82), **Lierse 1** (De Buyser 32). **Att:** 4,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Rumbelows (League) Cup — 3rd Round replay
C Palace 2, Birmingham 1

4th Round
Middlesbrough 2, Manchester City 1
Peterborough 1, Liverpool 0
Coventry 1, Tottenham 2
Everton 1, Leeds Utd 4
Manchester Utd 2, Oldham 0
Norwich 2, West Ham 1
Nottm. Forest 0, Southampton 0

Weekend

A Villa 3 (Regis 26, Yorke 40, Daley 70), **Manchester City 1** (White 65). **Att:** 26,265.
Everton 4 (Cottee 8, Beagrie 10, Beardsley 37, Johnstone 53), **West Ham 0. Att:** 21,563.
Luton 0, Leeds Utd 2 (Wallace 68, Speed 70). **Att:** 11,550.
Manchester Utd 4 (Bruce 13, Webb 20, McClair 27, Hughes 81), **Coventry 0. Att:** 42,549.
Norwich 3 (Thorn 20 o.g., Beckford 48, Newman 90), **C Palace 3** (Newman 30 o.g., McGoldrick 49, Osborn 51). **Att:** 12,667.
Nottm. Forest 3 (Woan 44, Sheringham 58, Gemmill 70), **Arsenal 2** (Merson 72, Smith 75). **Att:** 22,095.
QPR 1 (Wegerle 61), **Sheffield Utd 0. Att:** 10,106.
Sheffield Wed 3 (Hirst 46, 58, Williams 89), **Chelsea 0. Att:** 27,383.
Southampton 1 (Shearer 54), **Liverpool 1** (Redknapp 75). **Att:** 19,053.
Tottenham 2 (Walsh 17, Mabbutt 90), **Notts Co 1** (C. Short 35). **Att:** 23,364.
Wimbledon 2 (Earle 44, 55), **Oldham 1** (Marshall pen 84). **Att:** 4,011.

FRANCE Weekend

Sochaux 0, Toulouse 0. Att: 1,500.
Nimes 1 (Ayache 89), **St Etienne 1** (Mege 43). **Att:** 12,045.
Caen 2 (Cauet 45, Lebourgeois 65), **Lens 0. Att:** 5,511.
Toulon 0, Auxerre 3 (Ferrari 35, Prunier 60, Roche 68). **Att:** 2,000.
**Metz 0,

Brazilian Mazinho scores for Bayern Munich, in a 3-1 win over Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Att: 14,000.
Wattenscheid 2 (Fink 38, Schupp 78), **Duisburg 0. Att:** 14,000.
FC Nurnberg 0, Schalke 1 (Christensen 46). **Att:** 50,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Mazinho 74, Wouters 76, Wohlfarth pen 85), **Fortuna 1** (Spanring 32). **Att:** 11,000.
VfB Stuttgart 1 (Frontzeck 77), **Werder Bremen 1** (K. Allofs 65). **Att:** 18,000.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Funkel 32, Kuntz 44), **Koln 1** (Heldt 53). **Att:** 38,500.
Leverkusen 3 (Kirsten 46, 74, Foda 81), **Stuttgarter K 1** (Marin pen 40). **Att:** 8,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

SVV/Dordrecht 2 (Wouden 3, 81), **Roda JC 0. Att:** 1,100.
MVV 0, FC Twente 3 (De Boer 56, 89, Neijenhuis 73). **Att:** 3,500.
PSV 1 (Kieft 36), **Fortuna Sittard 0. Att:** 22,450.
VVV 1 (Derix 13), **Willem II 2** (Stewart 11, Meijs 27). **Att:** 3,000.
Vitesse 2 (Van der Brom 72, Vermeulen 75), **Den Haag 0. Att:** 5,000.
Volendam 1 (Berghuis 80), **Ajax 4** (Winter 17, Pettersson 22, Blind 43, Bergkamp 67). **Att:** 5,800.
Feyenoord 2 (Sabau 74, Taument 83), **Sparta 0. Att:** 22,051.
RKC 1 (Decheiver 8), **Utrecht 1** (De Kock 90). **Att:** 3,600.
Groningen 1 (Van Duren 19), **De Graafschap 0. Att:** 13,698.

ITALY Midweek

Cup — 3rd Round, 2nd leg
AC Milan 1, Verona 1. Agg: 3-3.
Milan win on away goals.

Weekend

Bari 0, Atalanta 0. Att: 34,800.
Cagliari 0, Cremonese 0. Att: 20,000.
Internazionale 2 (Brehme 17, Pizzi 81), **Genoa 2** (Aguilera 62, Eranio 71). **Att:** 39,900.
Lazio 1 (Riedle 52), **AC Milan 1** (Van Basten 55). **Att:** 55,200.
Napoli 3 (Padovano 11, Careca 20, 53), **Foggia 3** (Signori 22, 87, Shalimov 76). **Att:** 55,000.
Parma 3 (Nela 15 o.g., Osio 55, Melli 76), **AS Roma 1** (Di Mauro 12). **Att:** 22,000.
Sampdoria 1 (Katanec 24), **Juventus 0. Att:** 40,200.
Torino 2 (Lentini 29, Scifo 58), **Fiorentina 0. Att:** 35,000.
Verona 1 (Pin 65), **Ascoli 0. Att:** 18,400.

SCOTLAND Weekend

Aberdeen 4 (Jess 20, Grant 71, Booth 75, Roddie 85), **St Johnstone 1** (Stewart pen 3). **Att:** 9,300.
Airdrie 0, Hibernian 3 (Weir 61, Hamilton 69, Evans 75). **Att:** 4,000.
Celtic 4 (Collins 59, Creaney 63, 72, Lambert 70 o.g.), **St Mirren 0. Att:** 16,821.
Dundee Utd 0, Dunfermline 0. Att: 4,835.
Falkirk 1 (Sloan 58), **Rangers 3** (McCoist 13, Hateley 41, McCall 50). **Att:** 12,000.
Hearts 3 (Crabbe pen 32, Baird 38, Millar 45), **Motherwell 1** (McCart 20). **Att:** 10,008.

SPAIN Weekend

Burgos 2 (Tocornal 17, Balint 63), **Barcelona 2** (Amor 4, Laudrup 88). **Att:** 11,000.
Mallorca 0, Albacete 1 (Soler 66). **Att:** 16,000.
Espanol 0, La Coruna 3 (Jose Ramon 32, 60, Claudio 88). **Att:** 20,000.
Real Sociedad 4 (Carlos Xavier 38, 84, Kodro 66, Uria 87), **Logrones 0. Att:** 13,000.
Zaragoza 1 (Poyet 55), **Real Madrid 1** (Alfonso 73). **Att:** 42,000.
Oviedo 1 (Bango pen 25), **Sporting Gijon 0. Att:** 19,321.
Atletico Madrid 0, Sevilla 3 (Zamorano 17, 63, Andrades 75). **Att:** 12,000.
Osasuna 1 (Aguila 28), **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Tabuenca 46). **Att:** 20,000.
Valencia 3 (Quique 20, Penev pen 38, Eloy 45), **Valladolid 1** (Vicente Engonga 67). **Att:** 30,240.
Tenerife 3 (Dertycia 41, 75, Quique 70), **Cadiz 1** (Mejias 59). **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DEC 29

BELGIUM

Cup — 5th Round
Club Brugge 0, Standard 1
SK Beveren 3, V. Geel 0
AA Gent 1, St Truiden 0
Club Liege 1, Mechelen 2
Beerschot 0, Eendracht Aalst 2
St Niklaas 3, Molenbeek 1
SK Lommel 2, Waregem 0

ENGLAND Midweek

Tottenham 1 (Walsh 23), **Liverpool 2** (Saunders 28, Houghton 80). **Att:** 28,000.
Luton 1 (Harford 56), **Coventry 0. Att:** 7,533.
Southampton 1 (Dowie 3), **Notts Co 1** (Slawson 81). **Att:** 11,054.

Weekend *(21:12:91)*

Arsenal 4 (Wright 4, 13, 26, 70), **Everton 2** (Warzycha 3, Johnston 15). **Att:** 29,684.
Chelsea 4 (Wise pen 5, Allen 26, 90, Elliott 42), **Oldham 2** (Marshall 31, 62). **Att:** 13,136.
Liverpool 2 (Saunders 9, Nichol 82), **Manchester City 2** (White 48, 54). **Att:** 36,743.
Manchester Utd v A Villa — *postponed.*
Norwich 0, QPR 1 (Bailey 90). **Att:** 11,436.
Sheffield Wed 2 (Sheridan pen 49, 59), **Wimbledon 0. Att:** 20,574.
West Ham 1 (Dicks pen 87), **Sheffield Utd 1** (Deane 84). **Att:** 19,287.
C Palace 1 (Fenwick 62 o.g.), **Tottenham 2** (Walsh 16, Lineker 36). **Att:** 18,400.
Nottm. Forest 0, Leeds Utd 0. Att: 29,000.

Midweek *(26:12:91)*

A Villa 3 (Yorke 34, Daley 35, Richardson 89), **West Ham 1** (McAvennie 64). **Att:** 31,959.
Everton 0, Sheffield Wed 1 (Hirst 63). **Att:** 30,788.
Leeds Utd 3 (Hodge 27, 30 Speed 73), **Southampton 3** (Dowie 52, 89, Shearer 79). **Att:** 29,053.
Luton 1 (Harford 79), **Arsenal 0. Att:** 12,655.
Manchester City 2 (Quinn 28, White 45), **Norwich 1** (Newman 6). **Att:** 28,164.
Notts Co 2 (Yates 24, Johnson 47), **Chelsea 0. Att:** 11,933.
Oldham 3 (Sharp 48, Milligan 52, Bernard 69), **Manchester Utd 6** (Irwin 2, 54, Kanchelskis 43, McClair 56, 59, Giggs 78). **Att:** 18,947.
QPR 0, Liverpool 0. Att: 21,693.
Sheffied United 0, Coventry 3 (Robson 49, Flynn 56, Billing 66). **Att:** 19,638.
Tottenham 1 (Stewart 60), **Nottm. Forest 2** (Clough 11, Pearce 90). **Att:** 31,079.
Wimbledon 1 (Barton 68), **C Palace 1** (Gabbiadini 52). **Att:** 15,009.

Weekend *(28:12:91)*

A Villa 2 (Regis 15, Yorke 60), **Southampton 1** (Shearer 73). **Att:** 23,094.
Everton 1 (Johnston 61), **Liverpool 1** (Tanner 41). **Att:** 37,681.
Luton 2 (Harvey 38, Dreyer pen 41), **Chelsea 0. Att:** 10,738.
Manchester City 1 (White 71), **Arsenal 0. Att:** 32,325.
Notts Co 3 (Turner 51, Harding 62, Agana 69), **West Ham 0. Att:** 11,163.
Oldham 2 (Sharp 44, Bernard 48), **Nottm. Forest 1. Att:** 16,496.
QPR 1 (Wilkins 7), **Sheffield Wed 1** (Hirst 89). **Att:** 12,990.
Sheffield Utd 1 (Hoyland 15), **C Palace 1** (Gabbiadini 64). **Att:** 17,699.
Tottenham 3 (Allen 32, Lineker 66, Nayim 87), **Norwich 0. Att:** 27,969.
Wimbledon 1 (Earle 52), **Coventry 1** (Robson 38). **Att:** 3,270.
Leeds Utd 1 (Sterland 80), **Manchester Utd 1** (Webb 47). **Att:** 32,000.

FRANCE Midweek

Paris SG 0, Marseille 0. Att: 45,000.
Sochaux 1 (Caveglia 46), **Lens 2** (Boli 21, Dehu 41). **Att:** 1,200.
Nimes 0, Auxerre 0. Att: 10,067.
Toulouse 1 (Pavon 12), **St Etienne 1** (Deguerville 5). **Att:** 11,821.
Caen 1 (Gravelaine 9), **Nantes 1** (N'Doram 80). **Att:** 8,103.
Toulon 0, Montpellier 1 (Ferhaoui 81). **Att:** 3,636.
Metz v Nancy — *postponed.*
Rennes 0, Le Havre 2 (Tiehi 57, Benedet 90). **Att:** 7,686.
Lille 0, Cannes 0. Att: 6,000.
Lyon 2 (Ngotty 8, Bursac 90), **Monaco 0. Att:** 12,368.

Weekend

Montpellier 0, Lille 0. Att: 7,000.
Monaco 1 (Gnako 8), **Paris SG 0. Att:** 6,000.
St Etienne 2 (Cuervo 16, Kastendeuch pen 40), **Metz 0. Att:** 11,526.
Lens 4 (Laigle 9, 78, Tikva 81, El Hadaoui 85), **Toulouse 0. Att:** 8,000.
Auxerre 4 (Bazdarevic 41 o.g., Ferreri 48, Prunier 55, Martins 63), **Sochaux 0. Att:** 6,000.
Nantes 3 (Quedec 30, pen 52, N'Doram 69), **Nimes 2** (Cucciuffo 9, Arpinon 48). **Att:** 3,500.
Marseille 5 (Angloma 5, Boli 20, 73, Papin pen 61, Waddle 81), **Caen 0. Att:** 22,000.
Le Havre 3 (Uvenard 53, Tiehi 66, Roux 71), **Toulon 0. Att:** 9,236.
Nancy 1 (Zitelli 41), **Rennes 1** (Delamontagne 79). **Att:** 4,467.
Cannes 0, Lyon 0. Att: 3,500.

HOLLAND Weekend

Den Haag 5 (Van der Laan 3, 4, 13, 87, Van Eijkeren 54), **Volendam 0. Att:** 2,000.
Ajax 3 (Jonk 7, Pettersson pen 51, Van Loen 73), **Feyenoord 1** (Kiprich 88). **Att:** 50,000.
Roda JC v Vitesse — *postponed.*
Sparta 1 (Thal 57 o.g.), **MVV 2** (Visser 39, Joordens 55). **Att:** 2,500.
VVV v SVV/Dordrecht — *postponed.*
Willem II 4 (Vincent 31, Werdekker 68, Van Geel pen 83, Overmars 89), **De Graafschap 1** (P. Hofstede 13). **Att:** 4,500.
Utrecht 0, Groningen 2 (Roosien 7, Van Duren 57). **Att:** 7,000.
Fortuna Sittard v RKC — *postponed.*
FC Twente 0, PSV 4 (Popescu 21, Kieft 49, Kalusha 55, Zwinenberg 67 o.g.). **Att:** 9,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend *(22:12:91)*

Estoril 0, Torriense 0
Sporting 2, Maritimo 1
Vit. Guimaraes 1, Pacos de F. 1
Gil Vicente 1, Chaves 0
Boavista 0, FC Porto 0
Salgueiros 0, Famalicao 0
Penafiel 2, Sp. Braga 1
Uniao 0, Benfica 1
Farense 0, Beira-Mar 0

Weekend *(29:12:91)*

Farense 1, Torriense 0
Martitimo 0, Estoril 0
Pacos de F. 1, Sporting 0
Chaves 1, Vit. Guimaraes 1
FC Porto 1, Gil Vicente 0
Famalicao 0, Boavista 0
Sp. Braga 0, Salgueiros 0
Benfica 1, Penafiel 1
Beira-Mar 2, Uniao 0

SCOTLAND Midweek

Dunfermline v Airdrie — *postponed.*
Hibernian 0, Falkirk 1 (Taylor 69). **Att:** 6,968.
Motherwell v Aberdeen — *postponed.*
Rangers 2 (McCoist 13, 88), **Dundee Utd 0. Att:** 45,000.
St Johnstone v Celtic — *postponed.*
St Mirren 0, Hearts 1 (Millar 67). **Att:** 5,116.

Weekend

Aberdeen 2 (Ten Caat 14, Jess 21), **Celtic 2** (Mowbray 51, Cascarino 68). **Att:** 21,000.
Airdrie 2 (Coyle 46, Lawrence 61), **Motherwell 0. Att:** 6,000.
Hibernian 3 (Evans 75, 78, Wright 80), **Dundee Utd 2** (Paatelainen 16, Malpas 74). **Att:** 7,704.
Rangers 2 (Stevens 57, Gordon 66), **Dunfermline 1** (O'Boyle 87). **Att:** 41,328.
St. Johnstone 0, Hearts 5 (Baird 8, Robertson 48, 84, Crabbe 56, 82). **Att:** 10,064.
St Mirren 0, Falkirk 1 (Hughes 25). **Att:** 4,961.

SPAIN Weekend

Burgos 0, Mallorca 0. Att: 10,000.
Albacete 3 (Catali 19, Chesa 48, Zalazar 60), **Espanol 2** (Escaich 62, Francisco pen 87). **Att:** 15,000.
La Coruna 0, Real Sociedad 0. Att: 20,000.
Logrones 0, Zaragoza 2 (Gay 45, Garcia Sanjuan 90). **Att:** 13,000.
Real Madrid 0, Oviedo 0. Att: 90,000.
Sporting Gijon 0, Atletico Madrid 1 (Juanito 7). **Att:** 10,500.
Sevilla 1 (Zamorano 75), **Osasuna 0. Att:** 45,000.
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Garitano pen 28, Ciganda 90), **Valencia 3** (Eloy 59, Penev pen 64, Fernando 85). **Att:** 30,000.
Valladolid 2 (Vicente 46, Onesimo 81), **Tenerife 2** (Cesar Gomez 9 o.g., Dertycia 77). **Att:** 14,000.
Barcelona 4 (Koeman 38, Laudrup 52, Baquero 55, Buguiristain 89), **Cadiz 1** (Fali 84). **Att:** 30,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JAN 5

ENGLAND Midweek

Arsenal 1 (Merson 46), **Wimbledon 1** (Miller 19). **Att:** 26,839.
Chelsea 1 (Allen 56), **Manchester City 1** (Sheron 89). **Att:** 18,196.
Coventry 1 (Rosario 11), **Tottenham 2** (Lineker 39, Stewart 66). **Att:** 19,639.
C Palace 1 (Gabbiadini 7), **Notts Co 0. Att:** 14,202.
Liverpool 2 (Houghton 52, Saunders 79), **Sheffield Utd 1** (Deane 32). **Att:** 35,993.
Manchester Utd 1 (McClair 83), **QPR 4** (Sinton 3, Bailey 5, 58, 38). **Att:** 38,554.
Norwich 2 (Fleck pen 56, Ullathorne 78), **A Villa 1** (Regis 74). **Att:** 15,318.
Nottm. Forest 1 (Walker 90), **Luton 1** (Pembridge 1). **Att:** 23,809.
Sheffield Wed 1 (Sharp 63 o.g.), **Oldham 1** (Adams 71). **Att:** 32,679.
Southampton 1 (Adams 89), **Everton 2** (Ward 5, Beardsley 70). **Att:** 16,546.
West Ham 1 (Dicks pen 25), **Leeds Utd 3** (Chapman 11, 86, McAllister 39). **Att:** 21,766.

Weekend

FA Cup — 3rd Round
Huddersfield 0, Millwall 4
Oxford United 3, Tranmere Rovers 1
Leeds Utd v Manchester Utd — *postponed.*
Notts Co 2, Wigan Athletic 0
Sheffield Utd 4, Luton 0
A Villa 0, Tottenham 0
Norwich 1, Barnsley 0
Burnley 2, Derby County 2
N. Forest 1, Wolves 0
Woking 0*, Hereford United 0
Brighton 5, Crawley Town 0*
Southampton 2, QPR 0
Leicester 1, C Palace 0
Exeter 1, Portsmouth 2
Charlton 3, Barnet 1
Middlesbrough 2, Manchester City 1
Bournemouth 0, Newcastle United 0
Everton 1, Southend United 0
Sunderland 3, Port Vale 0
Blackburn Rovers 4, Kettering Town 1*
Ipswich 1, Hartlepool 1
Hull City 0, Chelsea 2
Bolton W 2, Reading 0
Bristol City 1, Wimbledon 1
Preston NE 0, Sheffield W 2
Oldham 1, Leyton Orient 1
Swindown Town 3, Watford 2
Wrexham 2, Arsenal 1
Bristol Rovers 5, Plymouth Argyle 0
Coventry 1, Cambridge United 1
Farnborough T 1*, West Ham 1
*** = *non-league sides.***

ITALY Weekend

Ascoli 1 (Giordano 46), **AS Roma 1** (Rizzitelli 53). **Att:** 10,000.
Atalanta 0, Verona 0. Att: 20,000.
Bari 1 (Soda 82), **Cagliari 0. Att:** 30,000.
Cremonese 0, Internazionale 0. Att: 13,300.
Fiorentina 1 (Faccenda 77), **Sampdoria 2** (Vierchowod 39, Vialli 71). **Att:** 31,600.
Genoa 1 (Aguilera 85), **Torino 1** (Casagrande 58). **Att:** 35,000.
Juventus 1 (Baggio 71), **Parma 0. Att:** 40,000.
Lazio 5 (Doll 10, Riedle 13, 38, Stroppa 82, Sergio 84), **Foggia 2** (Shalimov 13, 21). **Att:** 50,000.
AC Milan 5 (Maldini 1, Rijkaard 27, Massaro 41, Donadoni 69, Van Basten 80), **Napoli 0. Att:** 80,000.

PORTUGAL

Torriense 2, Maritimo 2
Estoril 3, Pacos de F. 1
Sporting 3, Chaves 0
Vit. Guimaraes 1, FC Porto 1
Gil Vicente 2, Famalicao 0
Boavista 2, Sp. Braga 1
Salgueiros 1, Benfica 1
Penafiel 2, Beira-Mar 2
Uniao 0, Farense 2

SCOTLAND Midweek

Celtic 1 (Mowbray 49), **Rangers 3** (McCoist 44, Hateley pen 77, Brown 89). **Att:** 51,381.
Dundee Utd 4 (Ferguson 53, Paatelainen 60, Jackson 80, 81), **Aberdeen 0. Att:** 7,608.
Dunfermline 0, St Johnstone 3 (Baltacha 48, Arkins 61, Curran 77). **Att:** 6,570.
Falkirk 0, Airdrie 3 (Kirkwood pen 16, 84, Smith 81). **Att:** 5,661.
Hearts 1 (Feguson 65), **Hibernian 1** (McIntyre 80). **Att:** 20,358.
Motherwell 3 (Nijholt pen 9, Cooper 76, Kirk 87), **St Mirren 0. Att:** 4,380.

Weekend

Aberdeen 0, St Mirren 0. Att: 8,800.
Airdrie 0, Rangers 0. Att: 10,209.
Celtic 1 (Collins 87), **Hearts 2** (Crabbe 60, Millar 61). **Att:** 30,415.
Falkirk 1 (Hughes 85), **Dundee Utd 3** (McKinnon 34, Jackson 50, 83). **Att:** 5,168.
Hibernian 5 (Wright 39, 60, 83, Weir 46, Evans 51), **Dunfermline 0. Att:** 7,565.
St Johnstone 0, Motherwell 0. Att: 4,965.

SPAIN Weekend

Mallorca 1 (Sergio Garcia 42), **Barcelona 2** (Koeman 23, Laudrup 58). **Att:** 25,000.
Espanol 0, Burgos 0. Att: 25,000.
Real Sociedad 0 Albacete 1 (Antonio 73). **Att:** 18,000.
Zaragoza 1 (Higuera 7), **La Coruna 0. Att:** 20,000.
Oviedo 2 (Sarriugarte 69, Gorriaran 75), **Logrones 3** (Da Silva 16, Polster pen 46, 61). **Att:** 15,875.
Atletico Madrid 2 (Vizcaino 1, Manolo 46), **Real Madrid 0. Att:** 45,000.
Osasuna 0, Sporting Gijon 2 (Monchu 13, Juanele pen 68). **Att:** 12,000.
Valencia 3 (Giner 19, Penev 40, Quique 61), **Sevilla 2** (Diego 37, Ramon 83). **Att:** 40,000.
Tenerife 4 (Filipo 12, Pizzi 25, 68, 78), **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Lacabeg 63). **Att:** 22,000.
Cadiz 0, Valladolid 0. Att: 10,000.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

December 18
In Goiania, Brazil.
BRAZIL 2 (Elivelton, Rai pen)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1 (Skuhravy)

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Brazil: Carlos, Giba, Antonio Carlos, Ronaldo, Lira, Mauro Silva, Rai, Luis Enrique, Bebeto, Valdeir, Elivelton.
Czechoslovakia: Miklosko, Gionek, Suchoparek, Nemecek, Frydek, Nemec.Marosi, Dubowsky, Hapal, Skuhravy, Latal.

● Brazil, playing their second match under new coach Carlos Parreira, again showed some of their old style and broke down their rivals defensive marking with fast wing play. Brazil's ball control also had Czechoslovakia in difficulties, Elivelton opening the score in the 13th minutes after dribbling past three defenders and lifting the ball over the goalkeeper's head as he came out. The second came from a penalty after the Czechs could only stop Valdeir by bringing him down in the penalty area.

CONCACAF CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Central American zone (in Guatemala)
December 8
COMUNICACIONES (Guat) 1 (Bauza)
ATLETICO MARTE (El S) 1 (Albizu)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Carlos Arrieta (C Rica).
Comunicaciones: Jerez, Velazquez, Acevedo, Ortiz, Contreras, Hernandez, Leon, Cahon (Perez), Bordon, Bauza, Vargas.
At. Marte: Lozan, Sanabria, Martinez, Figueroa (Garcia), Turcios, Castro, Lizama, Castillo, Alvizu, Cardoso, Alas.

SAPRISSA (C Rica) 8 (Herrera, E. Diaz, Morales (2), Picado, Roden, Colorado, L. Diaz o.g.)
REAL ESTELI (Nic) 1 (Cortez)
HT: 6-0. **Ref:** Enrique Melendez (Guat).
Saprissa: Hidalgo, Flores, Picado, Arias, Obando, Mayorga, Morales, E. Diaz, Roden, Flores (Coronado), Herrera (J. Mejia).
Esteli: Ortiz, L. Diaz, Garcia, W. Cortez, Mendez (Molina), Nunez, Jerez, Castillo, Rodriquez, Zeledon, Cortez.

December 11
COMUNICACIONES 15 (Bauza 5, Bordon 2, Chacon 3, Vargas 2, Hernandez, Perez, Arriaga)
REAL ESTELI 0
Att: 5,000

At. Marte beat Saprissa 1-0, (Cardoso).

December 15
ATLETICO MARTE 3 (Alvizu 2, Toledo)
REAL ESTELI 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Jose Chinchia (Guat).
At. Marte: Lozano, Sanabria, Martinez, Turcios, Cahon (Toledo), Salas, Alvizu, Velazco, Lisama, Castillo (Cartagena), Cardoso.
Esteli: Vialta, Molina, Barrientos, Diaz, Mendez, Baraona, Nunez, Moreira (Perez), Mejia, Rodriguez (Zeledon), Cortez.

COMUNICACIONES 3 (Contreras,Chacon, Bauza pen.)
SAPRISSA 3 (Coronado 3)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Gonzalo Tejada (Hon).

● Comunicaciones equalized with a last-minute penalty converted by their Argentine leading scorer Bauza. Saprissa had a player sent off.

FINAL STANDINGS
C. AMERICAN ZONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atletico Marte	3	2	1	0	5
Comunicaciones	3	1	2	0	4
Saprissa	3	1	1	1	3
Esteli	3	0	0	3	0

(Top two qualify for finals against North American and Caribbean zones)

OTHER INTERNATIONALS
December 4 — Argentina Olympic team 2 Brazil Olympic team 1.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
November 27 — America (Mex) 4 Botafogo Rio (Bra) 2.

INDOOR
South Ameican Junior Championship (In Asuncion, Paraguay): Final standings
(December 16 — 1. Paraguay; 2. Argentina; 3. Brazil).

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division
(Opening Championship — final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	19	14	3	2	33	11	31
Boca Juniors	19	7	10	2	22	15	24
San Lorenzo	19	4	14	1	20	14	22
Velez	19	8	6	5	27	18	21
Gimnasia	19	7	7	6	16	17	21
Dep. Mandiyu	19	7	6	6	22	20	20
Platense	19	5	10	4	16	14	20
Talleres	19	7	6	6	19	21	20
Independiente	19	6	7	6	22	22	19
Arg. Juniors	19	4	11	4	17	17	19
FC Oeste	19	6	7	6	16	16	19
Huracan	19	5	9	5	18	21	19
Racing Club	19	4	10	5	14	14	18
Dep. Espanol	19	6	6	7	23	25	18
B. Cordoba	19	3	11	5	15	17	17
Rosario Central	19	4	9	6	17	21	17
Estudiantes	19	4	8	7	14	21	16
Newell's	19	3	9	7	14	16	15
Union SF	19	3	8	8	13	21	14
Quilmes	19	1	8	10	9	25	10

***Bottom relegation averages** (of points obtained over last three seasons — worst two relegated):* Estudiantes 0,934; Belgrano Cordoba 0,894; Talleres Cordoba 0,891; Union Santa Fe 0,860; Deportivo Espanol 0,807; Quilmes 0,526.

URUGUAY
First Division *(final)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	26	13	8	5	30	13	34
Nacional	26	13	7	6	40	27	33
Wanderers	26	10	12	4	29	21	32
Penarol	26	10	11	5	27	21	31
Danubio	26	11	7	8	28	19	29
Cent. Espanol	26	8	13	5	24	24	29
Liverpool	26	6	14	6	25	24	26
Cerro	26	7	12	7	18	16	26
Bella Vista	26	4	14	8	20	31	22
Racing Club	26	6	10	9	20	27	22
Huracan Buceo	25	8	6	11	31	37	22
Progreso	26	6	9	11	23	31	21
Rentistas	26	5	9	12	22	29	19
Sisley	25	4	7	14	14	30	15

CHILE
First Division *(final)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	30	18	8	4	57	25	44
Coquimbo Unido	30	15	9	6	41	31	39
Univ. Catolica	30	16	6	8	54	38	38
O'Higgins	30	15	7	8	50	33	37
Fernandez Vial	30	13	6	11	28	33	32
Cobreloa	30	13	5	12	57	40	31
Concepcion	30	11	9	10	43	49	31
Antofagasta	30	8	13	9	22	24	29
Palestino	30	7	15	8	39	43	29
La Serena	30	11	6	13	42	56	28
Cobresal	30	8	11	11	43	35	27
Union Espanola	30	10	7	13	50	49	27
Everton	30	10	7	13	35	39	27
Univ. Chile	30	7	9	14	36	39	23
Osorno	30	5	9	16	35	66	19
Wanderers	30	3	13	14	26	58	19

PARAGUAY
First Division final round
(quarter-finals — final)
Group A: 1) Cerro Porteno 5 points; 2) Sol de America 3.25; 3) Nacional 3; 4) Sportivo Luqueno 2,25.
Group B: 1) Guarani 5; 2) Olimpia 4.50; 3) Cerro Cora 3.75; 4) Colegiales 2.25.
(Bonus points included — Top two of each group qualify for knock-out semi-finals).

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tachira	10	6	2	2	14
Maritimo	10	4	5	1	13
Trujillanos	10	5	3	2	13
Minerven	10	5	3	2	13
Caracas FC	10	4	4	2	12
Lara	10	4	4	2	12
Mineros	10	3	6	1	12
Univ. Andes	10	3	5	2	11
Anzoategui	10	2	5	3	9
Industriales	10	2	5	3	9
Zamora	10	3	3	4	9
Estudiantes	10	1	6	3	8
Monagas	10	3	2	5	8
Italia	10	3	2	5	8
Portuguesa	10	1	3	6	5
Salineros	10	0	4	6	4

BOLIVIA
National Championship quarter-finals
Group A: 1) Bolivar 8pts; 2) Oriente Petrolero 6; 3) Real Santa Cruz 5; 4) Orcobol 0.
Group B: 1) San Jose 7; 2) Blooming, The Strongest 5; 4) Jorge Wilsterman 3.

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	14	6	5	3	17	11	17
Univ. Mexico	13	5	5	3	21	13	15
Univ. Guadalajara	14	4	4	6	15	18	12
Veracruz	14	4	3	7	15	18	11
Cobras C. Juarez	14	2	2	10	11	22	6

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puebla	14	6	5	3	15	12	17
Univ. Tamaulipas	14	6	4	4	20	11	16
Monterrey	14	4	5	5	16	15	13
Guadalajara	13	2	7	4	8	13	11
Queretaro	14	3	5	6	10	17	11

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	14	6	6	2	18	13	18
Cruz Azul	14	6	4	4	21	18	16
Leon	14	4	8	2	14	10	16
Necaxa	14	3	5	6	16	19	11
Toluca	14	2	7	5	12	21	11

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	14	7	6	1	26	15	20
Morelia	14	5	6	3	18	13	16
America	13	5	5	2	20	18	15
Univ. Nuevo Leon	14	5	3	6	20	24	13
Univ. Guadalajara	13	4	3	6	13	21	11

EL SALVADOR
First Division
1) Luis A. Firpo, 22 pts; 2) Alianza 19; 3) Marte 18; 4) FAS, Fuerte San Francisco 14; 6) Aguila, Tiburones, Baygon-ADET 13; 9) Metapan, Cojutepeque 11.

HONDURAS
First Division
(regular season final)
1) Motagua 37 points; 2) Real Espana 35; 3) Olimpia 32; 4) Marathon 28; 5) Platense 27; 6) Victoria 26; 7) Vida. Petrotela 24; 9) Super Estrella 19; 10) Atletico Indio 18 — after 27 games.
Top five qualify for final round.

ECUADOR
First Division final round ***(final):*** 1. Barcelona 10 points; 2. Nacional & Valdez 5 (Valdez won play-off); 4. Deportivo Quito 4.

COLOMBIA
Professional League final round ***(final)***
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Nacional	6	3	2	1	12	8	0.25	8.25
Barranquilla	6	3	2	1	12	10	0	8.00
Millonarios	6	2	1	3	9	11	0	5.00
Independiente	6	1	1	4	6	10	0.25	3.25

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America Cali	6	4	0	2	10	8	0.50 8.50
Santa Fe	6	3	1	2	9	8	0.75 7.75
Quindio	6	2	1	3	9

MY WAY!

ALAN FAIRLEY TALKS TO DAVID MURRAY THE TOP MAN AT IBROX

Home news

"IT may happen next year, it may take five years, but to my mind a European Super League is inevitable and I intend making sure that Rangers are part of it."

David Murray talks in a manner refreshingly devoid of the in-built pragmatism which is often evident among those who run football clubs.

Murray, chairman of Rangers, speaks freely and openly concerning the fortunes of his team, the redevelopment of Ibrox, the state of Scottish football in general, and, perhaps most significantly, the future of the game in a European context.

"There are many positive factors with regard to the creation of a European League," says Murray, the 40-year-old self-made millionaire who amassed his fortune in the steel stockholding business and, as chairman of Murray International Holdings plc, is one of Britain's most prominent businessmen.

"After the creation of the European Single Market in 1992, for example, communication links all over the continent will be shortened considerably, with or without the Channel Tunnel.

"We used to spend four hours taking a coachload of players from Glasgow to Aberdeen for a match. Now we can fly to places like Paris and Amsterdam in just over an hour. It's the same game but in this scenario the playing field is bigger and clubs must be ready to adapt accordingly."

Accordingly

Murray is one of the new breed of club chairmen who have a solid background in commerce and industry, and he feels that this particular factor will act as a catalyst for developments at this level.

"Nowadays the big clubs are run by individuals, guys like Bernard Tapie of Marseille and Silvio Berlusconi of Milan," he says. "Like myself, they are decision-makers, they get things moving. We speak different languages but we're very much on a similar wavelength.

"That's the big difference nowadays. In the past clubs were run by committees who could never agree on certain matters and, as a consequence, nothing was every achieved. Now the decision-makers are in the right places and the game will progress as a result."

Murray obtained his first major involvement in professional football as recently as 1988. He was already established as a principal figure in the Scottish business world, despite losing both legs in a car crash, and had obtained a degree of name-awareness in sport via his high-profile sponsorship of club basketball. He invested money in an

Murray . . . clubs must wheel and deal.

Edinburgh team, bestowing the unashamedly commercial title of Murray International Metals and recruiting a series of international stars such as Alton Byrd from the United States.

The sport benefitted from Murray's involvement but in early 1988 the opportunity came along to buy a controlling interest in a football club — Ayr United.

"I was keen to clinch the Ayr deal because my family had a long connection with the club," he recalls. "My grandfather was a director at one time.

"Then the board rejected my bid. I was disappointed, but in the end it was the club's loss, not mine."

A few months later came the move which signalled the end of an era in Scottish football. Murray bought a majority shareholding in Rangers from the Lawrence family, who had controlled the club for several decades, and immediately became chairman.

"I had heard of the troubles which the Lawrence Group had been experiencing," says Murray. "I obtained an introduction through Graeme Souness, who had become a good friend of mine since he returned to Scotland from playing in Italy. The deal went through quickly and I was delighted to be at the head of the biggest club in Britain."

In the three years which have elapsed since Murray's takover, he has spent more than £24m on the refurbishment and development of Ibrox. An extra tier has been built into the main stand, financed to a degree by a supporters' debenture scheme, and various other enhancements are planned, notably the seating of the enclosure where a significant portion of the fans presently choose to stand.

"We've got until 1994 to install seats in the enclosure and my intention is to carry out that work at the last possible minute. A lot of fans would rather stand to watch, and I certainly don't intend patronising them with comments about the added comfort of seating, but regulations insist that Ibrox is to be all-seated, and we'll comply.

"But fans will be able to stand in the enclosure right up until the deadline."

Murray is somewhat scathing of the efforts being made by other Scottish clubs to comply with the new legislation.

"Rangers are one of the few clubs doing anything positive about it," he says. "Sticking wooden benches on to concrete steps isn't the answer. The clubs must redevelop their grounds to give their fans the best possible facilities."

Allegation

He refutes any allegation that Rangers are better placed to carry out such works because of the club's wealth and his construction trade connections.

"They call us the Ibrox millionaires but these millions have to be earned," he says. "We have to balance the books, both on and off the field, like any other club.

"There are all sorts of possibilities — groundsharing is just one example — of how clubs can redevelop their grounds.

"Clubs have to wheel and deal and negotiate in a businesslike manner, or they'll get nowhere and 1994 will be upon them before they know it."

As far as the development of the game in Scotland is concerned, Murray feels that further restructuring of the domestic set-up is essential.

"The current suggestion, whereby the Premier League will be split halfway through the season, is an obvious solution," he claims. "We'll press hard to convince the authorities, and the clubs, of its feasibility. I'm certain that it will do a lot of good, as more teams will have positive targets to aim for."

Murray is basically a man who enjoys, and appreciates, good football — every bit as much as the thousands who click through the Ibrox turnstiles every home game. "I look around the stadium with satisfaction at the way it's been developed," he says. "I look on the pitch and see the range of international stars who've been persuaded to play for Rangers. But in the end it's all about putting the ball in the net. That's all that really matters.

"If that doesn't happen, everything else is irrelevant."

War of the roses

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

MANCHESTER had the edge in the great power struggle between the Uniteds, drawing the League match with Leeds, winning the Rumbelows League Cup quarter-final and the FA Cup third round tie.

Total satisfaction was denied Manchester by a penalty carelessly conceded in the First Division encounter and then an extraordinary home defeat to Queen's Park Rangers, which left Leeds on top of the table by a point.

Manchester, however, had two games in hand.

Leeds were to seek consolation in the third winter meeting of the season's dominant forces, a third-round FA Cup tie re-scheduled because of a waterlogged pitch. That, too, was in Yorkshire.

In the League fixture, Neil Webb's goal put Leeds one down but they survived the onslaught and levelled through a penalty by Mel Sterland.

Worse was to come. Queen's Park Rangers scored twice in the first five minutes at Old Trafford and eventually won 4-1, with Dennis Bailey scoring a hat-trick. Leeds, who won earlier in the day at West Ham, were ahead again the Championship race.

Leeds looked the part in the early stages of their League Cup match and Gary Speed's fine goal gave them the lead. But Manchester came back with enormous conviction and Clayton Blackmore's long-range free-kick delivered the equaliser.

Two goals early in the second half, by wingers Andrei Kanchelskis and Ryan Giggs, ensured Manchester's passage to the semi-finals.

The FA Cup encounter was also won by Manchester, but Leeds can count themselves very unlucky to be out of the competition. Mark Hughes scored the only goal of the game a minute before half time, with Manchester's first serious attack of the half.

Leeds pressed relentlessly in the second half with Lee Chapman, uncharacteristically, missing several chances.

But Manchester had the luck and Leeds must have known it was not be their night when, with the goal at his mercy, Chapman headed wide under pressure from the outstanding Pallister.

Chapman fell awkwardly from Pallister's challenge — breaking his left wrist — and will miss two months and nine crucial League matches. That is a serious blow to Leeds' championship hopes as he is the club's leading scorer this season with 14 goals.

Adversaries

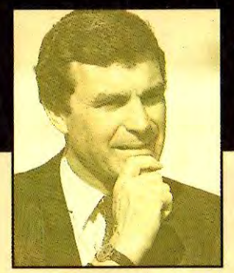
John Barnes scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's 4-0 FA Cup third round victory away to Fourth Division Crewe to compensate for the further loss of Ian Rush, who has had a second knee operation.

Manager Graeme Souness signed Michael Thomas from Arsenal for £1.5million and sold Steve McMahon to Manchester City for £900,000 as he reshaped his midfield, but his chief concern has been in attack.

While Liverpool appear to be on the mend the condition of old adversaries Arsenal is deteriorating. The champions slid to seventh and were unceremoniously dumped out of the FA Cup by Wrexham, bottom of the Fourth Division last season.

Hughes (dark shirt) . . . heads the winner in the FA Cup tie.

TREVOR BROOKING



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As a player myself I felt this rule needed adjusting as movement was restricted in the club's favour, but what I didn't anticipate was the repercussions it would bring. Too many players are now influenced by agents to abandon the club they initially joined from school, and so it becomes difficult for both player and supporter to build up that unique bond so evident in years gone by.

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One unpleasant residue of the 1990 World Cup in Italy is the extra play-acting that now goes on from certain players, which doesn't make the job of referees any easier. To deliberately fall down to try to gain a free-kick or get an opponent into trouble is a dreadful offence and hopefully if referees firmly believe it to be the case, then I think a yellow card must now be shown.

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The other problem to surface this season is when a player gestures to supporters and again this can be inflammatory and must be stopped.

Six years of success

SIX years ago this month the Football Association of Ireland made probably the best decision in their history when they appointed Jack Charlton as manager.

In 54 games in charge he has led the Irish to 26 wins, 22 draws and only six defeats. More importantly he took the Republic to the European Championships and the World Cup Finals for the first time, and most observers agree that the Irish were most unlucky not to qualify for this year's European finals.

Charlton's first match in charge was against Wales, and an Ian Rush goal spoiled his debut in international management. But in 25 games since then the Irish are unbeaten in Dublin.

Now the Welsh have been invited back for the sixth anniversary to fill the gap left by Denmark, who are drawn in the same World Cup group as the Irish. The game, on February 19, will be played at the Royal Dublin Society Grounds in Ballsbridge. Lansdowne Road is not available because of Rugby commitments.

Charlton probably will experiment against the Welsh, and Cambridge United defender Liam Daish, who was called up for the trip to Turkey in November, could win his first cap.

A further opportunity to look at players for the future will come a week earlier, when the Irish meet Denmark in a "B" international at Tolka Park.

Six months after the 1991 FAI Harp Lager Cup Final the managers of the finalists found themselves out of a job.

Cup-winners Galway United sacked Joey Malone after a poor start to the season — he has been replaced by former Galway goalkeeper Tom Lally — and Shamrock Rovers had to act after four consecutive home defeats, so former international striker Ray Treacy took over from Noel King.

This year's Cup campaign kicks-off on February 16, and the top tie of the first round is the meeting of Shamrock Rovers and Dublin neighbours St. Patrick's Athletic.

Former Bolton defender Sam Allardyce is doing very well in his first season in charge of Limerick City. They lead the First Division and must be fancied for promotion.

Daish . . . in line for a first cap.

SEAN **CREEDON**

GLENTORAN IN THE CLEAR

GLENTORAN have emerged as clear leaders of the League race, with three wins and two draws in the packed series of games over the turn of the year.

Linfield, three points behind, had the same record, but had lost a couple of vital matches in early December, while champions Portadown, who slipped to five points behind the leaders, were still struggling to find the blend of strength and skill that brought them last year's title.

Recent signings have not yet found their feet. Skilful Peter Murray (from Cliftonville) and Michael Surgeon (from Distillery) have not yet made up for the loss of Paul Doolin (now with Shamrock Rovers), Roy McCreadie (now player-manager of Omagh Town) and the injured Joey Cunningham.

Surprisingly, Portadown have found it harder to win at home than away, losing recently at Shamrock Park to Glentoran (2-1) and improving Bangor (1-0). Their play has lacked the assurance and conviction of the past two seasons.

That Glentoran victory at Portadown did their cause no harm, and Tommy Jackson's squad look to be the strongest in the League this season.

Accident

The best match to date was a 3-3 derby between Glentoran and Linfield before an estimated 10,000 — it really was thrill-a-minute stuff.

At the wrong end of the table Carrick Rangers lost talented midfielder Colin Crawford to Glenavon, whose manager Alan Fraser has been in hospital recovering from a car accident.

Fellow-strugglers Distillery had good news to report. For the first time in over 20 years the club who lost their Belfast ground because of the unrest, and are now based in Lisburn, have gone into the black at the bank. Quite an achievement!

To the great chagrin of IFA officialdom, Northern Ireland were drawn in a seven-team qualifying group for the '94 World Cup.

Baltic newcomers Latvia and Lithuania, plus Albania, will be expensive to visit, and although matches against the Republic of Ireland (a guaranteed sell-out), Spain and Denmark will attract good attendances, the capacity of the national stadium, Windsor Park, will be reduced to around 10,000 by FIFA's all-seater regulations.

So it will be hard to recoup the money to finance the trips abroad — especially if the early results are disappointing.

Team manager Billy Bingham's contract has been extended to the start of 1994, and will be extended still further if he takes the team to the World Cup finals for the third time.

Jimmy Nicholl, who won 73 caps for Northern Ireland, has been appointed Bingham's assistant.

ROY **KITSON**

War of the roses

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

MANCHESTER had the edge in the great power struggle between the Uniteds, drawing the League match with Leeds, winning the Rumbelows League Cup quarter-final and the FA Cup third round tie.

Total satisfaction was denied Manchester by a penalty carelessly conceded in the First Division encounter and then an extraordinary home defeat to Queen's Park Rangers, which left Leeds on top of the table by a point.

Manchester, however, had two games in hand.

Leeds were to seek consolation in the third winter meeting of the season's dominant forces, a third-round FA Cup tie re-scheduled because of a waterlogged pitch. That, too, was in Yorkshire.

In the League fixture, Neil Webb's goal put Leeds one down but they survived the onslaught and levelled through a penalty by Mel Sterland.

Worse was to come. Queen's Park Rangers scored twice in the first five minutes at Old Trafford and eventually won 4-1, with Dennis Bailey scoring a hat-trick. Leeds, who won earlier in the day at West Ham, were ahead again the Championship race.

Leeds looked the part in the early stages of their League Cup match and Gary Speed's fine goal gave them the lead. But Manchester came back with enormous conviction and Clayton Blackmore's long-range free-kick delivered the equaliser.

Two goals early in the second half, by wingers Andrei Kanchelskis and Ryan Giggs, ensured Manchester's passage to the semi-finals.

The FA Cup encounter was also won by Manchester, but Leeds can count themselves very unlucky to be out of the competition. Mark Hughes scored the only goal of the game a minute before half time, with Manchester's first serious attack of the half.

Leeds pressed relentlessly in the second half with Lee Chapman, uncharacteristically, missing several chances.

But Manchester had the luck and Leeds must have known it was not be their night when, with the goal at his mercy, Chapman headed wide under pressure from the outstanding Pallister.

Chapman fell awkwardly from Pallister's challenge — breaking his left wrist — and will miss two months and nine crucial League matches. That is a serious blow to Leeds' championship hopes as he is the club's leading scorer this season with 14 goals.

Adversaries

John Barnes scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's 4-0 FA Cup third round victory away to Fourth Division Crewe to compensate for the further loss of Ian Rush, who has had a second knee operation.

Manager Graeme Souness signed Michael Thomas from Arsenal for £1.5million and sold Steve McMahon to Manchester City for £900,000 as he reshaped his midfield, but his chief concern has been in attack.

While Liverpool appear to be on the mend the condition of old adversaries Arsenal is deteriorating. The champions slid to seventh and were unceremoniously dumped out of the FA Cup by Wrexham, bottom of the Fourth Division last season.

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BOBAN CARBONE JARNI SODA FORTUNATO BIATO
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